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METHODIST EPISCOPAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL,

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Wisdom is better than rubies. — PROV. viii. 11.
Apply thy heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. — PROV. xxiii. 12.

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ADDRESSES

TO

Children

IN

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

By REV. DUNCAN GRANT.

PHILADELPHIA:

AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION,

No. 1122 Chestnut Street.

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Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to wit;

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the twenty-fourth day of August in the fifty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1829, PAUL BECK, Jun. Treasurer in trust for the American Sunday School Union, of the said District, has deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor, in the words following, to wit:—

"Addresses delivered in the Gaelic chapel, (Aberdeen,) to the children attending the Aberdeen Sabbath Schools. By the Rev. Duncan Grant, Minister of Alves.

Grace is a plant, where'er it grows,
Of pure and heavenly root;
But fairest in the youngest shows,
And yields the sweetest fruit.

Revised by the Committee of Publication of the Am. S. S. Union.'

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during the times therein mentioned"—And also to the Act, entitled, "An Act Supplementary to an Act, entitled, "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies during the times therein mentioned," and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, nd etching Historical and other Prints."

D. CALDWELL,
Clerk of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

ADDRESSES,

&c. &c.

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.—Prov. viii. 17.

Do you know, my dear Children, who the person is that speaks to you in these words? When any one says kind things to children, they wish to know who he is. I am sure that no one ever spoke kinder words to you than those which I have now read. You must know who this person is, before you can love him. You cannot love those whom you do not know. I dare say some of you are wishing to know of whom Solomon in using these words speaks, whether it be of himself or of another person. He does not speak of himself; for "a greater than Solomon is here." You know that Solomon himself tells us that "the dead know not any thing;" (meaning any thing in this world;) and as he died long, long ago, he cannot love those who are now on earth, nor can he know what you think and say about him. We are told, in the

first verse of this chapter, that it is Wisdom that speaks to us here. Do you know who Wisdom is? The New Testament tells us, that Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God. The words which I have read, then, are spoken to you by Jesus Christ. You know that Solomon himself was a very wise man, but he never could have astonished the Queen of Sheba, nor instructed us by his wisdom, if he had not asked and obtained wisdom from Him, who said to him, "Ask what I shall give thee." He would have been as foolish as his son Rehoboam, and the foolish young men who gave him very bad advice, if he had not been taught by Him who is called the "Counsellor." You see then that the words of the text were spoken by him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Do you wish to know more about this person? If you read this chapter, you will learn many wonderful things which he says of himself. There is nothing said, however, more wonderful than the words, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

The first part of the text, "I love them that love me," is spoken to all persons, young and old; old men and old women should believe these words, and love Jesus who speaks so kindly to them; and young boys, and young girls, should also believe them, and

love him who speaks so affectionately to them. But the second part of the text, "Those that seek me early shall find me," is spoken to children only. You should remember that these words are addressed to you, that this promise is your own, and that you are not to give away so kind and delightful a promise to any person. There are many old men and old women, who have gray hairs and wrinkled cheeks, and dim eyes, and who are standing on the very brink of the grave, who have not sought Jesus early, and who do not love him; but he does not give them this promise. Poor people, they are the most miserable creatures in the world. The earth is weary of bearing them, and the sun of shining upon them, and the showers of falling upon them, and the angels of witnessing them so long in a state of enmity to God and to Jesus Christ. It is a great wonder that God has spared them to see the first day of another year, and it will be a greater wonder if they be not cast into hell before the end of this year. Oh! we should pity these persons, and pray for them, and we should tell them, that Jesus still says to them, "*Why stand ye here all the day idle? Go ye also into the vineyard.*" But you must not give away to them your own promise; because it is made only to those who seek Christ early, or in their youth. These people cannot do this now, for their youth is

departed for ever. To you, then, my dear children, these words are spoken, and they are spoken to each of you. Yes, though there are so many hundreds of you now present, Jesus addresses each of you in these words; and he will love each of you, and be found of each of you, if you love and seek him. You know the sun gives light to all the people in the world, yet it is as full of light at present as it was when it first shone; so Jesus can give his love to all the children and people in the world, and still have a heart full of love.

ADDRESS I.

I am going to tell you why you should love Jesus Christ. Now you should love him because he made you. We are told that "all things were made by him." He made the Heavens that are stretched forth over your heads, and the sun that shines so brightly, and the moon, and the stars, that give you light when the sun goes down. He made the earth that lies under your feet, and the sea which spreads itself round the world. He made the summer that has passed away so pleasantly, and the grass which then covered the earth like a beautiful green carpet. He made the winter that is now hastening away so swiftly, and the snow which covers the ground like a soft white mantle. He made the little birds that sing so sweetly in the trees, and the pretty lambs that sport so joyfully in the fields, and the small fishes that play so gladly in the waters. Yes, and he made you and me, and all the people that have ever lived; he made our bodies that must soon die, and our souls that shall never die. He gave us bodies wonderfully formed, and souls made after his own image. No creatures in this world but ourselves can love God, because they have not souls; and should

not we love him who gave us souls that can love him, and bodies that can serve him? Indeed, we should love the Lord with all our hearts and souls.

You should love Jesus Christ because he preserves you alive. "He is before all things, and by him all things consist." And the sea would come over the land and carry you all away, if he did not keep it back; and the clouds would pour down floods and drown you, if he did not prevent them. He makes the showers to fall, and the dews to descend, in order to water the earth, that it may bring forth food to nourish you. The fields would produce no corn, if he did not cause it to grow; and the clouds would produce no rain, if he did not cause it to fall. Your parents could give you no food, if he did not provide it; and the bread you eat, and the water you drink, would not nourish you, nor make you strong and healthy, if he did not bless them. You would be always in darkness, if he did not make the sun to rise; and you could not draw your breath, if he did not give you the air in which you breathe and live. When you are sick, you would never get well, if he did not give you health; and when you are in health, you would soon sicken and die, if he did not keep sickness and death away. When you go out, you could never return home, if he did not preserve you; and when you lie down in your bed and close your eyes,

you could never open your eyes, nor leave your bed, if he did not watch over you. When you were infants, you could never have learned to speak, or walk, if he had not given you the power; and when you are little children, you could never become men and women, if he should not make you grow in stature. When you went to school, you could not learn one lesson, if he did not give you assistance; and you could not remember one of your tasks, if he had not given you memory.

You have heard that, in some countries, parents drown or kill their children, that they may have no trouble with them, or that they may please their idol gods; and that, in other countries, parents sell their children as slaves, and care not any thing about them; but Jesus who made, and preserves you, has given you your birth, where parents love, and nurse, and provide for their children. Many little children are born where they are taught to worship idols, or false gods; such as beasts, and birds, and pieces of wood, or stone; and these children never heard of God, nor of Jesus Christ, nor of the Bible; but you have been born in a land in which you are taught to know, and love, and serve the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent. Many children in this country* are brought up in ignorance and wickedness,

*Scotland.

and have never entered a school, nor a church, nor seen a teacher, nor a minister; but you are taught, and warned, both in school and in church. Is it not a great mercy that you are not confined to beds of sickness, that you are not blind nor deaf? Is it not a great mercy that you are not starving without bread, and shivering without clothes? Is it not a great mercy that you have fathers, or mothers, or friends, to take care of you, and provide for you, and educate you? Is it not a great mercy that you have teachers to instruct you during the week, and on the Sabbath day? All these blessings are given to you by Jesus Christ; and should you not love him who preserves you alive, and grants you so many mercies? Should you not love him, "in whom you live, and move, and have your being?" You should all say,

> "His hand is my perpetual guard,
> He keeps me with his eye;
> Why should I then forget the Lord,
> Who is for ever nigh?"

You should love Jesus Christ, *because he laid down his life for you.* You are told in the Bible that Adam, soon after he was created, broke the law of God, and sinned against him, by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. By the sin of Adam we all have been hurt, and we are born with sinful dispositions. Though

you may not understand how the sin of the first man could have injured us, still you must believe it, because the Scriptures tell you, that "by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners," and that we all are, "by nature children of wrath." When a tree is cut down, all the branches fall with it; when a fountain is filled with any bad thing, the stream which flows from it is also bad. You know that though Cain had been taught to love God and his brother, and had never seen nor heard of murder, still he killed his brother, and showed that he had a wicked heart, and a bad nature. Your heart and nature are in like manner sinful; for God tells you that "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth," and that "man goes astray as soon as he is born, speaking lies." But besides this, you are sinners, because you have often broken the law of God, and done many bad things which God hates, and forbids, and left undone many good things which God loves and commands to be done. The youngest child among you cannot say, that he has never told one lie, nor spoken one bad word, nor played on the Sabbath day, nor been angry with his companions, nor disobeyed his parents, nor done any bad thing. The youngest child among you has done some of these wicked things, and he is therefore a sinner. Now God tells you, that he is very angry with sinners, and that he will turn

them into hell, and punish them for ever What a dreadful thing sin is, when it makes God angry! and what a dreadful place hell is, when it is there that God shows, and pours forth his anger! When man had sinned and exposed himself to eternal wrath, Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God, promised to come into this world, and to die in our place, that we might be saved from hell.

Jesus says, in this chapter, that he was always the Father's delight; and he adds, "My delights were with the sons of men." Now, is it not very surprising, that Jesus Christ, though he was the Father's delight, had his own delights with the sons of men? Is it not very wonderful, that he had not his delights with God alone, as he was always God's delight, or with the angels, who love him and serve him, day and night? Is it not very surprising, that he should leave heaven, and all its happiness, and the bosom of the Father, and all its delight, and come into this wicked world? Jesus could not—no, my dear children, he could not remain in heaven, when he saw you and me, and all the race of Adam in danger of being cast into hell. He saw you all guilty, and defiled, and helpless, and he knew that God could not in justice pardon you, nor make you holy and happy, if he should not come into the world, and pay a ransom for your souls, and die for you. He knew that angels could not save you, and

that men could not save you, but that *he* could save you; and he, therefore, came into the world—just as Isaiah had said, "Unto us a *child* is born, unto us a *son* is given." You are told, that he was born in Bethlehem, and "wrapped in swaddling-clothes, and laid in a manger." You are not, perhaps, wondering at the love of Jesus, in becoming a little child; but angels wondered at it, and came from Heaven to tell the shepherds about it; and the shepherds wondered at it, and left their flocks, and went to see the child; and the wise men wondered at it, and came from the East to visit the infant; and the heavens seemed to wonder at it, for a great light shone in the fields of Bethlehem, and a new star directed the wise men to the child. Jesus is called "*Wonderful;*" and was it not very wonderful, that the Son of God should become a little child, and be born—not in a house, but in a stable; and be laid—not in a cradle, but in a manger. Perhaps, you are not glad to hear, that a Saviour has been born; but old Simeon had joy in his heart, and a smile on his countenance, when he saw him: and aged Anna had delight in her soul, and praise in her mouth, when she beheld him. Perhaps you do not love Jesus, when you hear of his birth, but like Herod, who wished to kill him because he was afraid that he would take his kingdom from him, you are afraid that Jesus and the love of God may in

terfere with a gay wicked life.—Perhaps you do not love, nor worship, nor serve God; but Jesus, at the age of twelve years, was found in the temple, and he told his mother, that he must be about his heavenly Father's business. Perhaps you are disobedient to your parents, and growing in folly, and in enmity to God and man; but Jesus, when he was young, "was subject to his parents," "and increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

You are told that Jesus, when he was about thirty years of age, began to teach the people, and he continued to teach them till his death. He taught us about God, about himself, and about the Holy Spirit; about this world, and the world to come; about Heaven and Hell. He taught us what we must believe and do to be saved; and what we must think, and speak, and do, if we love nim. He also went about doing good, and performing wonderful works, which showed that he was God, and had all power, and wisdom, and goodness. He healed all that were sick, and made the blind to see, and the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, and the dumb to speak. He walked on the sea, and made the winds and the waves to do his will. He raised the dead, and made devils and wicked spirits to obey him. What a holy and good life Jesus spent! all his thoughts, and words, and actions, were as holy as the

law of God. "He was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners." And should not you love this kind, kind Saviour, who has done so much good, and who has done it all that you might be saved?

Can you think on the sufferings and death of Jesus without feeling any love to him? You read that he was hungry, and thirsty, and weary; that he was despised, and hated, and mocked. You read that Judas sold him, that Pilate condemned him to die, that Herod set him at nought, and that the Jews crucified him. Yes! you read that Jesus had his back torn with scourges, and his head crowned with thorns, and his hands and feet pierced with nails, and his side wounded with a spear, and his body nailed to the cross. When he cried out I thirst, they gave him—not water but vinegar to drink; when he shed tears, no kind friend dried up his tears. You read, that he was in agony, and sweat great drops of blood, and cried out, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death." You are told, that "it pleased the Lord to bruise him," and that "God spared not his own Son," but commanded his sword to smite him, which made Jesus to cry out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Now, my dear children, is it not very wonderful that Jesus came into the world, when he knew that he should suffer all this,

and when he could have remained in heaven? It was love to children, and to others, that made him to leave the bosom of God, and come into the world, and suffer all this. The Jews could not have killed him, if he had not been willing to die; and the nails could not have fixed him to the cross, if he had not been bound by cords of love. He might have got legions of angels from heaven, who could have destroyed the Jews as easily as the angel destroyed the armies of the king of Assyria. But Jesus was willing to die, that you might live; he wished to suffer, that you might be saved. It was for you and me, and other sinners, that Jesus suffered and died, for we are told, that "Christ hath loved us, and hath given himself for us." You know, that Judah offered to remain a prisoner in Egypt, in the place of Benjamin, that his little brother might return to his father; in the same way, Jesus put himself in our place, and suffered for us, that we might be saved. Many children do not think, nor care much about the sufferings of Jesus; but they should remember, that if he had not suffered, they should be for ever in the place of misery. Though you, perhaps, do not care much about these things, angels care about them; for an angel came to strengthen Jesus, when he was in agony; and the inhabitants of heaven care about them, and speak of the love and of the sufferings of the Lamb that

was slain. Though you do not feel sorrow when you read of the death of Jesus, many of the people of Jerusalem were sorry, and shed tears, and smote their breasts. The sun itself, as if it were sorry, hid its face, and covered itself with darkness and mourning; and the rocks seemed to feel, and they rent in pieces; and the earth seemed to feel, and it quaked; and the very dead felt, and they rose from their graves. You are told, that Saul shed tears, and spoke kindly to David, when he saw that David had spared his life, when he had it in his power to kill him; and should you not shed tears, and think, and speak kindly of Jesus, who died that your life might be spared. When the Jews saw Jesus shedding tears at the grave of Lazarus, they said, "behold, how he loved him!" and when you see Jesus shedding—not tears, but his blood, on the cross, should you not say, behold how he loved us! If the woman who loved Jesus, showed her love by washing his feet with her tears, has not Jesus shown his love to us, when he washes us in his own blood? But his love cannot be described; "it passeth knowledge."

You should love Jesus, *because he is now in Heaven, praying for all who love him, and preparing places for them in Heaven.* You are told, that after Jesus had lain in the grave part of three days, God sent his angel to roll away the stone from the mouth of the

grave, and that Jesus then rose from the dead. You read, that after he had spent forty days with his disciples, he led them out to Bethany, and blessed them; and then, whilst he was blessing them, he was parted from them, and carried up into Heaven. He left the earth, blessing his people, and he is now in Heaven blessing them. You know, that Aaron went into the holy place, with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel on his breast; and Jesus has entered into Heaven, with the names of all who love him on his heart; and he loves them now, as well as when he was on earth. His delights were with the sons of men, before he came into this world; and his delights are with them now, after he has left the world, and returned to Heaven. It is he who sends the Holy Spirit to make children and others to be sorry for their sins, and to love him, who died for them. It is Jesus who teaches children to pray. When they cannot pardon themselves, he pardons them; when they cannot make themselves holy, he sanctifies them; when they cannot make themselves happy, he comforts them. "He ever liveth to make intercession for them," and to bless them. Should you not love that Saviour, who makes intercession for all who love him, and who cares for them in youth, and in old age; in health, and in sickness; when they have parents and friends, and when they have not;

when they are in this world, and when they are passing into Heaven. Though Joseph was long forgotten by the butler of Pharaoh, I am sure that he was thankful to him, for having remembered him at last; and should not you be thankful to Jesus, who has never for a moment forgotten any one who loves him? How glad were the Jews, and how thankful were they to Esther, for having spoken for them to the king, and for having preserved them from death; and should not you love Jesus, who speaks and prays for you to the King of Heaven. It was because Jonathan was very fond of David, that he spoke so kindly to his father about him; and is it not because Jesus loves his children, that he speaks so kindly of them to his heavenly Father. It was because Paul loved Onesimus, that he wrote so kind a letter about him to Philemon; and is it not because Jesus loves those who love him, that he pleads their cause before the throne of God? David, when a young man, was surprised that Saul, who was a king, had shown him so much kindness; and should you not be surprised, that Jesus, who is "King of kings," has shown so much kindness to you?

I think I have now told you so much about what Jesus has done for you, that you must confess that you ought to love him; and I could tell you more reasons for loving him, than I have yet mentioned. Do you know

my dear children, that you should love Jesus, even although he had not died for you. You are told that angels love and serve him, though he has not laid down his life for them. When you hear of a wise, and good, and kind man, you esteem him, though he should have done no good to you. Now Jesus is so wise, and so holy, and so just, and so good, that you ought to love him and serve him, though he had not done so much for you. But how much should you love him, when you think not only on what he is, but also on what he has done!

It was because Jesus loved you, that he laid down his life for you: and you must not think that you can love him before he loves you. It is said of Jacob, before he had done any good thing, "Jacob have I loved," and John says, "we love him, because he first loved us." The Young Cottager said, on her death-bed, "I love Jesus, because he first loved me, and I think if he had not loved me first, my wicked heart would never have cared about him." You must not think that you cannot love Jesus, because he is far from you, or because you cannot see him. Would it not be very foolish in a child to say, that he could not love his parents, or his brothers and sisters, when they were out of his sight, or far from him? You can love good people, particularly if they have been kind to you, though you may have never seen them. Jesus

is not far from you He is near you every moment, and sees you, as he did Nathaniel, when he was under the fig-tree, and thought no one saw him. You know what Peter says, "whom having not seen, ye love." You are not to think, that you are too young to love Jesus. You are not too young to sin, and to die, and to be sent to hell, and you cannot be too young to love him, who died to save you. Would you not think it very foolish in a child to say, I am too young to love my parents? You must not think that if you love your parents and friends, you need not love Jesus. How foolish and wicked would that child be, who would say, I love my brothers and sisters, but I hate my father, and I will not do any thing to please him. You must not think that you can love Jesus too much; or that you need not love him more than any other person. God cannot love him too much; and angels cannot love him too much; and the child who does not love Jesus more than he loves any other person, does not love him at all. You must not think, that you may love Jesus for a little time, and then cease to love him. What a foolish and bad thing it would be, for a child to say I love my parents at present, and I will love them for some time to come, but then I will cease to love them. Jesus never ceases to love his children, and you must never cease to love him. It is Jesus who says, "Abide in my love;"

and it was Paul who said, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Though you had begun to love Jesus as soon as you were born, you could not, through eternity itself, repay this love which he has shown for you.

ADDRESS II.

Now I am to ask each of you the question which Jesus asked Simon the son of Jonas, "Lovest thou me?" This is a very short question, but it is very important, and each of you should be able to answer it. Perhaps many of you do not know what answer to give to it. Perhaps you would like to hear how children can know if they love Jesus or not. I will tell you how you can know this. If I should ask one of you, do you love your parents? he would say, yes: indeed I love them dearly. If I should ask him, how do you know that you love them? would he not say, laying his little hand on his breast, "I feel something here, that tells me that I love them; I cannot tell what it is, nor can I explain it, but I feel it: indeed I feel love to them in my heart." Now, if you love Jesus, you must feel something in your heart that tells you, that you love him. If you love him, you will be often thinking about him, just as you think of your parents, and brothers, and sisters. If you love him, you will wish to be in his company, just as you like to be with those whom you love on earth, and you will think that you could not be happy in any place but where he is. I lately read of a

child who was asked, when dying, "whither he was going?" He answered, "to Heaven." "Why do you wish to go to Heaven?" He replied, "because Christ is there." "But what if Christ should leave Heaven?" "Well then," said the child, "I will go with him." This child loved Jesus so much, that he thought he could not be happy in Heaven without him. If you love Jesus, you will be often speaking about him, just as you delight to speak about your parents, and those whom you love; and you will wish to hear others speaking about him, and praising him, just as you wish to hear your parents praised. If you love Jesus, you wish that all the children in the world would love him too, just as you wish that people would love your parents and friends: and you will be sorry when you see that other children do not love him. A little girl once said, "How good Christ was, to come down from Heaven to suffer so much, and to die for sinners, and for me too! And I wonder that all the men and women in the world do not love Jesus Christ!"

If you love Jesus, you love all the children and people who love him: just as you love those who are fond of your parents, and brothers and sisters. All the children who love Jesus, belong to one large and happy family; and you know, that the children of one family should love one another; and that Jesus said to his disciples, "By this shall all

men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Though dogs bite, and serpents too; though wicked children hate one another, and quarrel and fight; those children who love Jesus, must always love one another. When the apostle John, who was the disciple whom Jesus loved, and who loved Jesus very much, was very old and weak, and could not preach long sermons, he was carried to the church, and always repeated the words, "Little children, love one another." One of his hearers asked him, why he always repeated these words? He answered, "because love is the fulfilment of the law, and the new commandment of Jesus." Wilberforce Smith said, when he was about seven years of age, and just dying: "Mother, I love you with all my heart, and I love God, and I love Jesus Christ, and I love all good people, and I love angels, and I shall sing hallelujahs."

There are many children who do not love good people, and this is a proof that they do not love Jesus Christ. There are many children who despise and mock the people of God; and God is very angry with these children, because they hate those whom he loves. You know that the children who mocked the prophet Elisha, and said, "go up thou bald head," were very wicked, and that God was very angry with them, and sent two she-bears out of the wood, which tore and killed forty-

two of them. This was a dreadful punishment, but the children deserved it, because they hated and mocked the good man, whom God loved. It was very rude and wicked in them to cry out after the Prophet, who was passing on without saying a word or doing any harm to them. But I have seen children as wicked as the children of Bethel. I have seen children insulting people that were walking on the streets, and throwing snowballs and stones at them; and I have heard children calling out after people that were doing them no harm; now these children do not love Jesus. I have seen wicked children running after foolish people, and mocking them, and striking them; and I have seen children following and mocking the poor people that beg in the streets; and I have seen children standing and laughing at poor people, who were blind, or had no arms or feet, or were deformed. Now all this is very wicked, and shows that the children who are guilty of it, do not love Jesus Christ. It is he who made these poor people as well as you, and it is he that kept from them reason, or riches, or health, or strength: and when you mock them, you mock God and your Maker. Jesus never mocked the foolish, poor, or deformed people he saw; he had pity on them, and blessed them. You know that when he saw mad and wild persons who were in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying and

cutting themselves, he pitied them, cast the devils out of them, and restored them to their right mind. You read that Jesus, instead of mocking a poor man with a withered arm, healed him; instead of insulting a deformed woman who was bowed down with disease and sickness, he gave her strength; instead of laughing at a poor cripple man, he restored the use of his limbs; instead of mocking two poor blind beggars, he had pity on them, and gave them sight. If any of you are poor and ignorant, and plainly dressed, do you think it would be proper in all the rich and learned, and finely dressed people that see you, to mock you and laugh at you? It is as improper and as wicked in you to insult the foolish, and the poor, and the deformed. You know that because Ishmael, when young, mocked Isaac his brother, God was angry with him, and said, "Cast out the son of the bond woman, and let him not be heir with Isaac." Think of the children of Bethel, when you are disposed to mock any person. The bears which tore them, only did what God wished to be done; and though you need not be afraid of bears, still God can punish you in many other ways: he can send a fever, or a consumption, or some other disease, to cut you off; and he will punish your souls in hell if you do this. You should remember, that if you have many blessings, denied to these people, you should be the more thankful to him

who gave you these mercies: you should say,

> "Are these thy favours day by day,
> To me above the rest?
> Then let me love thee more than they,
> And try to serve thee best."

Children who love Jesus, *are kind to every one they see*, to the poor, and the old, and the helpless, and they wish to do them good, by giving them any thing useful that they can spare. Paul tells you, that "you should remember the poor;" and John says, that the love of God does not dwell in the heart that has not compassion on his brother, when he has need. A little girl, mentioned in a beautiful book, written about an American lady, used to go to read the Bible, to a poor sick woman, who could not read herself. A gentleman asked this girl, in the Sabbath-school, why she visited this woman? She answered, "because, Sir, I find it said in the Bible, Pure religion, and undefiled before God and the Father, is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction." "Well," said he, "and did you give her any money?" "Yes, Sir." "And where did you get it?" "Sir, it was the reward given me in school."

The children who love Jesus, *love and obey their parents*. God says, "honour thy father and thy mother:" and again, "cursed is he that setteth light by his father or his mother." "Children," says Paul, "obey your parents." You know that Solomon loved and honoured

his father and his mother, and God blessed him: and that his brother Absalom hated and disobeyed his father, and he was killed. Eli's sons would not obey their father, and they are called sons of Belial, and they perished in a dreadful manner. You know that Jesus Christ, when a child, was subject to his parents. I knew a boy who was so fond of his father, that he said on his death-bed, "that nothing troubled him so much as the fear that he loved his father more than he loved Jesus Christ." A little girl who died lately in Ireland, was asked by her mother, did she not love Jesus more than her mamma? She was at first silent: her mother again asked the question, and the child answered, "I hope when God is going to take me, he will enable me to do so." This shows us that she loved her mother very much, but wished to love Jesus still more, as she ought to do.

Children that love Jesus, *ought to pray for their parents*, as their parents should for them. A child about eight years of age once asked his father why he did not pray for him, as some good parents, whom he had read of, used to pray for their children. The father looked steadfastly at his dear boy, sighed and wept, and said, "No wonder I have not prayed for you—I have never prayed for myself?" "Then I will pray for you, papa," said the child. After this, the father and mother, and the little boy, always prayed, and

they became good people. Children who love Jesus, ought to do all they can to provide for their parents. You know that Joseph cherished his father in his old age; and that Jesus, when he was on the cross in great agony, did not forget his mother: he recommended her to the care of John, who took her to his house, and provided for her. Your parents love you tenderly, and provide for you when you could do nothing for yourselves: and they have done much more for you than you can ever do for them: you should therefore do every thing you can for them.

There was lately a man who had an only son, to whom he was very kind, and gave every thing that he had. When his son grew up and got a house, he was very unkind to his poor old father, whom he refused to support, and turned out of the house. The old man said to his grandson, "go and fetch the covering from my bed, that I may go and sit by the way-side and beg." The child burst into tears, and ran for the covering. He met his father, to whom he said, "I am going to fetch the rug from my grandfather's bed, that he may wrap it round him, and go a begging." Tommy went for the rug, and brought it to his father, and said to him, "pray, father, cut it in two, the half of it will be large enough for grandfather, and perhaps you may want the other half when I grow a man, and turn you out of doors." The words of the

child struck him so forcibly, that he immediately ran to his father, asked forgiveness, and was very kind to him till he died: this is an affecting little story, and you should remember it.

Children who love Jesus Christ, *love their brothers and sisters.* You know that Cain was very wicked, and killed his brother; that Ishmael was cast out of his father's house, because he mocked his brother; and that Joseph's brethren, who hated him, and sold him, acted very wickedly, grieved the heart of their good old father, and displeased God very much. Christ tells you, that he who "says to his brother, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." Whilst the little birds agree in their nests—whilst the gentle lambs lie down together in peace—should not children agree, and love one another? A little girl said to one of her brothers, with whom she found some fault, "perhaps you think I do not love you, because I speak so to you; but indeed I do love you, and wish to live with you in heaven, for ever." A few weeks ago, a good man wrote a letter to me, about a son of his, who died here lately, in which he says, "I have had a long week of it—shedding floods of tears, with five young ones at the fire side, and the poor father looking on them—motherless children; himself a dying man, and wanting this affectionate boy, who, had he been spared, would in

all likelihood have supplied the place of both father and mother. Had you known the support that boy was to me, during his mother's long illness, and his attention to the young ones! They feared him—they obeyed him—they loved him—they studied to please him. He corrected them and managed them when he was with us, and was a treasure of a child. But I agree with you in thinking, that I have no cause to mourn, as those who have no hope. No, blessed be God, I have the most clear Scripture evidence of his having been converted to God; and I believe that he died in faith, glorifying the God of his salvation." Do you not see that this young man loved his parents, and his brothers, and sisters? Yes, and he loved God, and Jesus too; for when I asked him, three hours before he died, what he wished me to pray for; he answered, "Pray that the love of God may be shed abroad in my heart." And when he saw his companions standing around his deathbed, he said to them, "Now is the time for a Saviour."

Children who love Jesus, *love and obey their teachers.* The apostle Paul says, "know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and esteem them very highly in love, for their work's sake." We find that Obadiah, who feared the Lord from his youth, honoured and esteemed the prophet Elijah, who was giving instructions to Israel

at that time. It is a very bad sign of children, that they do not love and obey their teachers. You know that Samuel, when a child, loved and obeyed Eli. You should love all your teachers, and particularly those who teach you on the Sabbath day. They seek no reward for all their kindness to you: and should you not love them? In all their services, they have no other object in view, but the glory of God and your welfare. Should you not be obedient to them? They love you, and pray for you, and think about you; and they wish that you may love Christ, and seek him. They have no greater joy, than to see their children walking in the truth. Many a little boy and girl would be glad to have such teachers. Many a child in the country, would give every thing which they have, to be favoured with teachers. And will you not be as fond of your teachers? You must regularly attend the school; and keep from speaking, and laughing, and looking about you; and from doing any thing improper when in it. You must learn your tasks at home, and be prepared to repeat them distinctly, when you come to school.

Children who love Jesus, *love to tell all children, and people, what they know about him, and they wish to make others love him.* You know that Jesus, when on earth, often spoke about his own love, and his heavenly Father's love to sinners. To his disciples,

who were always with him, he spoke on this subject; and to Nicodemus, who came to him by night, he said the most beautiful things on this subject. He commanded his apostles to go into all the world, and to preach the gospel to every creature; and he desired them to preach it first at Jerusalem—to the very people who had mocked, and scourged, and crucified him. Though they would not speak a kind word to him, still he prayed for pardon to them, when they were crucifying him; and offered them first, repentance and forgiveness. David wished to teach all the children and people in his kingdom, the fear of the Lord. Do you not remember what Andrew did? After he had seen Jesus, "he findeth his own brother Simon, and said unto him, we have found the Messias or Christ, and he brought him to Jesus." Paul tells us, that the love of Christ constrained him. He could not speak nor preach, but about this love, and he would rather cease to speak altogether, than cease to speak of Jesus and his love. I will tell you some pretty stories about this. Simeon Wilhelm, an African boy, who died lately in London, was asked on his death-bed how he found himself. He replied, "very bad." "Do you feel that you wish to live?" "If it be the will of the Lord: if it is not, *let him do what seemeth him good.*" "Why do you wish to live?" "To go back to my country." "Why do you wish to go

back to your country?" "I would get all people about me—my father, and my mother. and all people, and tell them what the Lord hath done for my soul."—A little Irish boy, mentioned in the reports of the Hibernian Society, had a very wicked father. One night, the father came home very drunk: he heard a voice behind his bed, and when he listened, he heard his little boy praying to God, to have mercy on his father. The father was very much struck with what his son said, and he gave up his wicked ways.—A little American girl, mentioned in the report of the Bible Society, had a little pocket money; her companions wished her to buy fruit or toys, with her money; she said, "I like these things very well, but I cannot, indeed I cannot give away the money that must buy Bibles for the poor Indians!"—The next story is one of the prettiest I know, and it was told by Mr. Money, a Member of Parliament, at the last meeting of the Bible Society, in London. "About three years ago, I went from Bombay to the Mahratta country, for the health of my family. One day, as our little girl, not three years old, was walking through a grove with a native servant, they approached an ancient and deserted native temple. The man quitting the child, stepped aside, to worship a stone idol, like that shown in the following picture, that was seated at the door of the temple: when he returned,

A BURMESE IDOL.

the following dialogue took place between them: "Saumy, what for you do that?" "O, missy, that my God." "Your God! why, your God a stone, your God no can see, no can hear, no can move: my God see every thing; make you, make me, make every thing." We remained at that place four months. Saumy never failed to repair to the temple, and the child never failed to reprove him for his idolatry. He became, notwithstanding, very much attached to her, and when he thought she was going to Europe, he said to her, "what will poor Saumy do, when missy go to England? Saumy no father, no mother." She instantly replied, "Oh Saumy, if you love my God, he will be your father and mother too." The old man, with tears in his eyes, promised to love her God. Then said she, "you must learn my prayers;" and she taught him the Lord's prayer, and her morning and evening hymns. One morning when we were assembled to family worship, Saumy, of his own accord, quite unexpected, came into the room, took his turban off his head, laid it on the floor, kneeled down, and audibly repeated after me the Lord's prayer. From thenceforth, there was a visible change in his whole conduct, particularly in his regard to truth. He became anxious to learn English, that he might read the Bible, and in a little time he accomplished the task." Now, these beautiful stories show you, that children

who love Jesus, wish to speak about him, and make him known to their friends, and to servants, and to all people. How good this little girl was to the servant. She was not like many children, troublesome and vexatious to servants.

Children who love Jesus, love his day. The Sabbath day is called the Lord's day, because it was on it that Christ rose from the dead, and went up into Heaven. God says, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." You know, that a man mentioned in the Old Testament was stoned to death, because he did not keep the Sabbath day, but gathered sticks upon that day. Many a time do I see children playing in the streets on the Sabbath day; and it is much worse to play, than to gather sticks on that day; and God might punish them, as well as the man whom I mentioned. Last Sabbath day, I saw boys sliding on the ice, and when I spoke to them of the sin of such conduct, some of them, like the children of Bethel, mocked. Perhaps some of you were among them; if you were, I can assure you that you do not love Jesus. Often do we see boys and girls playing about on the Sabbath day; and we pity them, and we pity their parents, who suffer them to profane the Lord's day, and to go in the way that leads to destruction: and we consider these parents more cruel than Herod, who slew the children of Beth-

lehem; for they destroy their *own* children, but he, the children of *others;* they destroy the *souls* of their children, but he only the *bodies* of the children, whom he put to death. When we see children in crowds on the streets, we are almost sure that they are doing what is wrong, and particularly if it be the Sabbath day. You should spend the Sabbath, in reading, praying, praising: in attending church, and in thinking on what you have heard; and in preparing your tasks for the Sabbath-school, and in such things as you are certain God loves, and commands. If you do not love the Sabbath day, you cannot go to heaven, nor would you be happy in it! Heaven is nothing but a large temple: and eternity in heaven is nothing but a long and happy Sabbath, spent in loving, worshipping, serving, and enjoying God. Remember then to sanctify the Sabbath. I once saw a young man condemned to die, because he murdered a girl. He did this dreadful action on the Sabbath day; and he confessed, before he died, that he was led to every kind of wickedness, from his not keeping the Sabbath day, as God commands it to be kept. Many others have confessed the same thing, when they were just about to be hanged for some great crime. A good man says, in a beautiful little book, written about his son, who died young, and was a very good boy: "Many a joyful Sabbath have we spent together in this

manner, especially during the latter years of our Joshua's continuance with us; and now, when his mother and I are disposed, on the return of these sacred seasons, to look with regret towards his vacant place, we endeavour to animate each other, with the hope of shortly following our dearest son, to the celebration of that eternal sabbath above, of which we have enjoyed so many sweet anticipations." Mr. Newton says of Eliza Cunningham; "Great was her delight in the ordinances,—exemplary her attention under the preaching. To be debarred from going to hear at our stated times, was a trial, which, though she patiently bore, seemed to affect her more than any other; and she did not greatly care what she endured during the rest of the week, provided she was well enough to attend the public worship." Many of you see the Sabbath profaned by your parents, but you are not to imitate their example; and though we told you, that you must obey your parents, still you are not obliged to obey them, nor imitate them, when they bid you do, or do themselves what God forbids to be done. I never knew a child who did not delight in keeping the Sabbath holy, if he loved Jesus. A very learned, and great, and good man,* when advising his children to keep the Sabbath holy, told them, that he had observed

* Sir Matthew Hale, Chief Justice of England.

throughout his whole life, that every thing went well or ill with him during the week, according to the attention which he paid to the Sabbath.

ADDRESS III.

Children who love Jesus Christ, *love the Bible.* The Bible was given us by God, in order that we might learn about Jesus Christ; and if we do not love the Bible, we cannot love Him who gave it, nor Him of whom it speaks. The Bible is like a garden, full of beautiful flowers; among these flowers, the Rose of Sharon, (an emblem of Christ) grows in the midst of the garden, and all who love that Rose, must search for it among these flowers. The Bible is the map which directs little children to Heaven, the guide which points out the path to the good land. You read that David, when he was young, as well as when he grew old, delighted in reading the Bible; and that Josiah, though a king, and a very young man, rejoiced when part of the Bible was found, and wept when it was read in his hearing. You read that Timothy knew the Scriptures from his youth. A young king of England said, when he was crowned, and presented with three swords, to signify that he was king of three countries: "I want one sword yet," and when asked what that one was, he replied, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." A little boy, who lately died in London, gave

nis Bible to a young relation, and said, "there is a book for you; pray for a blessing on it; do not part with it, even if you should want bread. Many children have shown, like this boy, that they wished others to read and love the Bible. A lady who teaches a Sabbath-school, lately said to a little girl, "Mary, you have not been at school for some time; I am afraid you do not love school now." "O but I do; I am sure I always liked the Sunday-school." "Why not attend then?" "Because," replied the poor girl, hesitating and blushing, "because—but I should not tell." "Well, but surely you may tell me." "Well ma'am, if you please, our Nanny cannot read, and she wishes to learn, that she may read her Bible, and so I stay at home to teach her; but when she has learnt, I will come to school again." I was lately at the burial of a little girl, who said to her aunt, a little before her death, "Miss S—— has sixteen pence of mine, which you will get from her, and give to the Bible Society."

Children who love Jesus Christ, *love the truth.* God tells us that his children, "are children that will not lie." Jesus is the Truth, and the True Witness. You know what Gehazi got by telling a lie: he got the leprosy, a most dreadful disease. You read that Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for telling a lie; and that the men who told lies against Naboth, are called children of

Belial. The devil is the father of lies, and the children who tell lies, are like him, and they shall have their portion with him; for we are told that, "whosoever loveth, and maketh a lie" is shut out of Heaven, and cast into the burning lake; all who make lies their refuge, shall go down to the pit, with a lie in their right hands. Liars then shall go to the place of misery at last; and they are despised and hated by men, whilst they live. Children often tell lies to conceal some wicked thing which they have done; but this is making the crime much, much greater. Cain did this. He first killed his brother, and then, when God said to him, Where is Abel thy brother? he answered, I know not. You are told, that the brothers of Joseph first sold him, and then told a lie to their father. Some parents encourage their children to tell lies: and they therefore help them forward in the way to disgrace in this world, and to misery in another. A little boy playing in the house, when his father and mother were from home, broke a looking-glass; as soon as his father came home, the child said to him, with a sorrowful countenance, "Father, I have broken the best looking-glass in the house." His father kindly said, "that he had rather that all the looking-glasses in the house were broken, than that one of his children should tell an untruth, or attempt to make mean excuses."

Indeed, this boy should not have been playing at ball in the house; and children should take care not to break and destroy any thing But it was proper to tell the truth; and a few years ago, this boy's sister said, that though he was now twenty-two years of age, no friend, nor enemy, could charge him with ever telling an untruth.

Children who love Jesus, *love honesty.* God says, "Thou shalt not steal." And you know that Achan was put to death for stealing, or keeping what was not his own. The prophet Zechariah says, that the curse of the Lord enters the house of the thief; and though you have no houses, still this curse can pursue you, and enter your souls. There are children, who steal any thing on which they can lay their hands; and there are mothers, who encourage them to do this: and I have seen such wicked children, and such wicked mothers. It would be a very dreadful thing, if any of you should ever be guilty of stealing. You hear that thieves often go on in their wicked ways, till they commit crimes for which they are hanged: and you know, that it is said, that "thieves cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven." Many boys and girls, who do not steal, often cheat one another; now this is very wicked. You know that Zaccheus, as soon as he began to love Jesus, gave back what he got by unfair means. The apostle says, "let no one go beyond, or

defraud his brother." A little boy said to his mother one day, "Dear mamma, forgive me, I have been very naughty to-day; I was playing at marbles with my cousins, and won the game by a mistake that they did not find out; I have been very unhappy ever since, and I am afraid to go to sleep, lest that heavenly Father of whom you tell me so often, should be angry with me; you say, that he knows and sees every thing: what shall I do, that he may forgive me?" You see this boy could not sleep, after he had been guilty of what some of you would consider no fault. He believed that God saw him; and all who love Jesus, believe this: and when they are disposed to do any thing that is bad, they will remember that God sees them; and say with Joseph, "how can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Children who love Jesus, *do not murmur and fret when they are sick, or in distress.* You know that Joseph did not complain, though he was cast into prison; and that the three young men, mentioned in Daniel, did not complain, though they were cast into the fiery furnace. Many children are peevish, and discontented, if the least thing ails them, or happens to them. You should remember, that God chastens his children, as a father does his son; and that he has some reason for making you sick, or for making your parents sick, and for keeping from you any thing

that you wish to get. You should not then complain, but be thankful for what you still enjoy; and you should pray, that God would bless sickness to you, and make you feel how weak you are, and how easily God may cut you down as a flower. I lately asked a little boy on his death-bed, what he wished me to pray for; when he gave me this striking answer: "Pray, Sir, if you please, that I may have patience whilst I am in trouble, that my sickness may be blessed to me if I recover, and that I may be prepared for death and eternity if I die." A little girl, who died only a few months ago, said to her mother, a little time before her death, "mamma, I am praying for faith and patience." To her sister she said, "why do you cry for me? don't you know that I am going to heaven." You see that this girl was fond of prayer, and prayed for faith and patience; and all the children who love Jesus, love prayer. You read that Jesus himself prayed often when on earth, and commanded us to pray to our Father who seeth in secret. You know that he taught his disciples to pray. All the good people mentioned in the Bible prayed to God. I will tell you more about prayer, when I speak to you about seeking Christ. The little Irish girl mentioned last, prayed for others, as well as for herself: and this was what she said: "May God Almighty bless my dear mother, and all my

brothers and sisters, and aunts and uncles, and cousins, and a great many more, that I cannot name now: and O! grant, that I may meet them all before the throne of Jesus Christ, and that they may all know Jesus Christ, whom to know is life eternal." A gentleman lately asked a little boy, how often he prayed; he answered, "At morning and night, and sometimes in the middle of the day." "How many rooms has your family to live in?" "One, Sir." "How, then, can you pray in the middle of the day?" "Well, Sir," said the boy, turning his head aside, as if ashamed to mention it, "I sometimes pray in the closet, and sometimes in the coal-hole." "How do you pray?" "I say my prayers first, and then pray after." Some of your parents do not pray, and if they continue as they are, God will pour out his fury upon them; they do not keep family worship, and the curse of God is in their house; but do you not imitate their example, but pray like the boys mentioned before, that God would have mercy on them.

The children who love Jesus, will not keep company with wicked boys or girls. You know that Solomon says, that if sinners entice you, you must not consent; and that the companion of fools, and of wicked people, shall be destroyed. Wicked boys are often together, and doing mischief, like the children who mocked the prophet; and they wish

to make other children as wicked as themselves. A pious minister in London tells us, that "when he was young, one of his companions had taken as much pains to destroy his principles and his faith, as though he were to gain heaven by his endeavours." I have known many children who were ruined by keeping bad company: it would be safer for you to go into a place where there was a very bad fever, than into the society of wicked people. A bad boy is like a serpent that will sting you, or like a fire that will burn you.

The children who love Jesus, *do not curse, nor take the Lord's name in vain.* Your parents may think, that there is no harm in taking the name of the Lord in vain, and they may set you an example in swearing; and other people may think and act like them, but "the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." God is very angry with all swearers, and he will punish them in hell. You read that the son of an Israelitish woman was stoned to death, because he blasphemed the name of the Lord, and cursed; and that Shimei who cursed David, was put to death. Simeon Wilhelm said to a minister, "I suppose, Sir, it is very wrong to take the name of the blessed Lord in vain." "Yes, Simeon, it is very wrong." He then said, "Many people take his holy name in their mouths, and speak it out on

each trifling thing. We must remember, that the same Jesus who is our Saviour, is the Holy God. I can therefore not otherwise think of him, than with love and awe. The Lord will punish them who take his name in vain."

The children who love Jesus, *love to speak harmless and pretty words*, and not the bad and filthy language which wicked people use. They love to read good books, and tracts, and not the foolish and bad books, and stories, and ballads, which other children read. Many young persons spend much of their time in reading books called novels and plays; and I believe, that many have been ruined by such books. I have known some young people, who were much hurt by reading plays, and going to the theatre to see them acted. Tillotson, a minister in the Church of England, when speaking of parents who bring their children to the theatre, says, "They are such monsters, I had almost said devils, as not to know how to give good things to their children. Instead of bringing them to God's church, they bring them to play houses, those schools of lewdness and vice." No person ever learned to love Jesus in the theatre. Mason says, "One can just as soon conceive, that a devil can be happy in the flames of hell, as that a child of God can seek for, and find happiness in the play-house, whilst the love of Christ is warm upon his mind, and the peace of God is ruling in his soul."

Children who love Jesus, love to be busy at their books, or their work; and they do not spend all their time in idleness or play You read that when man was created, God put him into the garden of Eden, to work in it. Rachel kept her father's flock, when she was young; and so did David. When young persons are in service, they ought to be diligent, and faithful, and to do every thing they can to please their master or mistress. Joseph did this, and God was with him, and blessed him. You know the beautiful story of the little maid who waited on Naaman's wife. Though she was young, and far from her friends, and among strangers, she wished to do all the good she could to her master, and she told how his leprosy might be removed. What a great blessing she was to Naaman! Servants or apprentices, whether they be young or old, must not waste time, because it is not their's, but their master's, nor be careless about any thing that belongs to others; they must not repeat any thing they hear spoken in the house, nor tell tales about the other servants; they must not give an answer, when they are blamed for any fault, nor ever speak any thing but the truth; they must not stay long away when they are sent on an errand, nor keep company with idle people, or bad children; they must always attend to their work, and be as busy when their master does not see them, as when

he is present. "The girl who has just left the room," said a lady to a minister, "is a greater comfort to me, than I can express. She watches me with the affection of a daughter, and the care of a nurse. My chief complaint is, that she takes so much care of me, that I cannot make her take sufficient care of herself."

Children who love Jesus *are humble.* They are not filled with pride on account of their beauty, or their clothes, or because they are praised, or rewarded for getting their tasks, or doing their work properly. Jesus, who was himself always humble and lowly, says in this chapter, "pride and arrogance do I hate." You may be beautiful, but your beauty will soon fade. You may be finely dressed; so are the lilies of the field, which quickly droop and die. You may be good scholars, but your ignorance is much greater than your knowledge; and God, who gave you memory and reason, may soon take them away, if you be proud of them. Angels were cast out of heaven, on account of their pride; and Herod was eaten up of worms, because he was proud. As you must not be proud of what you have, so you must not envy others for what they possess. When you see other children more beautiful, or better dressed, or better scholars, than yourselves, you must not envy them. Joseph was sold by his brethren through envy: Miriam was covered with leprosy; and Korah,

Dathan, and Abiram, were swallowed up by the earth, because they envied Moses. Ahab killed Naboth, that he might get his vineyard, which he had envied; and Haman was brought to the gallows by his envy. I have seen a child, after she had been drinking tea with some of her companions, burst into tears, and almost break her little envious heart, because she had seen some of the other children dressed more finely than herself. "Sometimes I fancied," said the Young Cottager to her teacher, "you did not think so well of me, as the rest of the children, and this hurt me; yet I knew I deserved no particular favour, because I was the chief of sinners."

Children who love Jesus, *are not easily angered*, and they do not get into a passion when they are corrected by their parents or teachers. Children do many improper things, and think there is no harm in them; but their parents know that these things are bad, and they ought to correct their children. You read, that God was much pleased with Abraham, because he commanded his children, and taught them to fear God; and that he was much displeased with Eli, because he did not correct his sons. It is improper in children to be always asking for new clothes, or playthings; or to be careless about their clothes, or any thing they have; or to be always asking foolish and useless questions; or to be rude and forward, when their parents,

or other people, are speaking. It is very improper in them to go out, without telling their parents where they are going, or to stay out longer than their parents wish. It is improper in them to go to places where they will be in danger; or to play where there are horses, or carriages, or crowds of people. It is improper in them to be handling guns, or sharp instruments, or to be climbing trees and walls. I knew a boy who was killed, when handling a gun. It is also improper to be playing on the brink of a river or stream. A little girl was one day playing on the brink of a stream, and she fell into it; when I went out, I saw her lying at the bottom of the water; I tried to take her out, but I could not move her, for I was a little boy, and she was very heavy. I ran for help, and she was taken out of the water, but she never opened her eyes—she was dead! It is very improper, and very bad in children, to be unkind to dogs, or lambs, or birds, or any other little creature they have. You read, that God gave a command, not to take away the dam with the young out of the nest: and that one of the reasons for which he spared Nineveh, was, because there was much cattle in the city. Was it not very wicked and cruel in Balaam, to smite the ass which he rode, and which was the means of saving his life? Cowper mentions a man who was struck dead in a moment, after he had been treating a

fowl in a very cruel manner! There are many other improper things which children do, and for which they should be corrected; and instead of becoming angry with those who reprove them, they should be thankful to them, and never do the same things again. "He that hateth reproof shall die," just like the sons of Eli; and he who is angry with those who correct him, is like Herod, who put John in prison, and afterwards to death, because he had reproved him for his sins.

The children who love Jesus, *love every thing which he loves;* and hate every thing which he hates. They wish to do every thing which he bids them to do in his word; and to keep from every thing which he desires them to avoid. They wish to follow the example of Jesus in every thing, and to have the same mind that was in him. They wish to love him more, and to obey him better, than they have ever done; and they think they can never love nor serve him so well as they ought. They sometimes long to be in Heaven with him, that they may love and serve him, with all their heart and soul, and never more do any thing to displease him, nor have any doubt of his love to them, or of their love to him; just like Paul who "had a desire to depart, and be with Christ;" or like Eliza Cunningham, who said on her death-bed, "I long to go home; I would not exchange conditions with any person upon earth; I am ready to

say, why are his chariot-wheels so long in coming?"

I think I have now told you so many things, about the children who love Jesus Christ, that you may answer the question which Jesus asks, "Lovest thou me?" I trust that there are some of you who can say, after hearing what I have told you: "Yes, I hope that I love Jesus, and that I love the people, and the things which have been mentioned; and I will love him always, and serve him whilst I live." I shall tell you soon, what you get by loving Jesus; and you should all learn, and repeat this prayer:—

"Send down thy Spirit from above,
That we may love the more;
And children now may learn to love,
Who never lov'd before."

ADDRESS IV.

I am afraid that there are many of you nearing me, who do not love Jesus Christ, and who do not the things which I told you must be done, by the children who love him. Oh! my dear children, my heart pities all of you who do not love Jesus Christ. Is it not a very dreadful thing to be accursed? You know that when Jesus cursed the fig-tree, it withered and died, and never put forth another leaf or blossom. Indeed, it is the most awful thing that you can think of, but awful as it is, the apostle Paul says, "if any one love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema, or accursed." You may hate men, and they do not know it; but Jesus knows every thing, and reads your souls, and sees what is written on them, as well as what you do openly; he knows very well who are the children that do not love him, and he could tell their names at this moment. You may hate the people and children whom you see, and they cannot do any thing against you, but Jesus can punish all those who hate him, or do not love him; for all those who are not for him, are against him. You know, that he punished the children of Bethel in a dreadful manner. He can do this to *you*, and he *will* do this, if

you die without love to him. You know not how soon he may make you wither, and die like the fig-tree. Some of your companions who were in health, on the evening of the first day of last year, are now in their graves; and if they died without love to Jesus, their souls have been cast into hell. You do not know but some of you may be dead before another new-year's day. Indeed, I am sure that I may say to some of you, "this year you shall die;" and if you die without love to Jesus, you must be sent away to the place of endless pain. What will you do if God shall say this year to Death, "Cut down that little plant, and let it be cast into the fire." At this moment he may be saying, yonder is a little boy who does not love me; yonder is a little girl who hates me, and my beloved Son; yonder is a child who does not love me, nor regard her Saviour; let them alone for twelve months, or for six months, or for one month: and if they do not love us before that time, cut them down. Indeed it is very likely that this will be done, for you know that your life is but a thread, which is easily cut; a plant which is easily torn up by the roots; a leaf that soon fades; a flower that soon withers. You read that the Shunamite's son went out quite well in the morning, and he went to his father, and cried, "my head, my head," and he sat on his mother's knee till noon, and then died. Every day children

die; and to-morrow you may be stretched on your death-bed. You know that after death comes the judgment: and the dead, small and great, must appear before God, as they meet together in the grave. The little children whom Herod slew shall appear before God's throne, and the little children whom the bears destroyed, shall appear before the judgment-seat. If you die without love to Jesus, you must be cast into the lake of fire, and in it you must lie down for ever, and be companions to wicked people, and to the devil and his angels. Now, is not this very dreadful? Indeed it is. And is it not now time that you should begin to seek, and love Jesus? You can never get to Heaven, if you do not seek, and love him; and you can never get any good thing, till you seek and find him.

Jesus gives every blessing to them that seek and love him. I will tell you some of the things which you need, and which you will get, if you seek him, and love him. You need the pardon of all your sins. The youngest of you has often done and said many bad things; and you have all broken the law of God, and are, by nature and practice, children of wrath. Children often think, that they do not need to be pardoned; but, my dear children, you are all guilty in the sight of God, and, till you seek Jesus, you remain guilty, and God is angry with you every day. Is not pardon worth the

seeking then? It is: for David, though a king, said that "blessed is the man whose iniquities are pardoned." You cannot be pardoned, but through Jesus Christ; it is his blood that cleanseth from all sin, and you must have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Jesus tells you in this chapter, that he that findeth him, obtaineth favour of the Lord. God is not angry with the children and people who seek and find him.

You need to be made holy. You have wicked hearts full of enmity, malice, envy, pride, and all kinds of evil; and your hearts must be changed, and filled with love, and meekness, and humility, and every thing that is good. The heart of stone must be taken away, and a soft heart given; and the heart of uncleanness removed, and a clean heart formed; and it is Jesus who can do this. His blood is a fountain opened for sin, and for uncleanness; and in this fountain you must be washed, and by it you must be cleansed. All the people in Heaven sing this song about Jesus: "unto Him that loved us, and *washed us* from our sins in his own blood, be glory, and honour."

You need wisdom and knowledge. Many children think themselves very wise, but Solomon tells us that "foolishness is bound in the heart of a child:" they think they know almost every thing, but Bildad assures us, that "we are but of yesterday, and know

nothing:" they wish to be thought wise, but Zophar says, that though "vain man would be wise, he is born like the wild ass's colt," one of the most stupid, foolish, and obstinate of creatures. How little do children know of God, or of Jesus Christ—of themselves, or of others—of their own hearts, or of their own salvation! Through ignorance they commit many sins. The Jews crucified Jesus, and Saul of Tarsus persecuted him through ignorance. Those who love not Jesus, "have no understanding; they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." They have only the wisdom which is earthly, sensual, devilish; and if they die without love to Jesus, they must, like the foolish virgins, be shut out from Heaven, and spend a gloomy, and a sorrowful eternity among those "to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." But if you seek Jesus, he will make you wise unto salvation. In this chapter, Jesus says to the sons of men, "O ye simple, understand wisdom, and ye fools, be of an understanding heart. Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold." He is "the Sun of Righteousness:" "the bright and morning star;" and he will scatter all the clouds, and all the darkness which dwell on your minds, if you seek and love him. It was he who gave all their wisdom to Joseph, and to Solomon, and to Daniel; to the wise vir-

gins who took oil in their vessels, to the wise man who built his house upon the rock, and to all who are now in that city, which has no darkness, because "the Lamb is the light thereof." He delighted, when he was on earth, in teaching the ignorant; and thanked his heavenly Father, because he had revealed to babes what he had hid from the wise and prudent. You have read what Isaiah says, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts."

> "He can the wisest wiser make,
> And babes as wise as they."

If you seek and love Jesus, he will give you peace and happiness. Children think themselves very happy, if they have friends, and health, and food, and clothes, and amusements; but whatever they may have, they cannot be really happy, if they love not Jesus. Was Cain happy when he cried out, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth!" Was not Saul very unhappy when he said, "I am sore distressed, for God is departed from me?" Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? Have those peace who hate Jesus, who is "the Prince of Peace?" "There is no peace saith my God, unto the wicked." But if you seek Jesus, who is

"the consolation of Israel," he will give you happiness, and peace, and comfort. When a fond and affectionate mother takes her little boy on her knee, and with all the tenderness and sweetness of a parent, smiles on him, and kisses him, and calls him her beloved, and her darling boy, is he not very happy? Is he not so much delighted with the sweet smile, and the fond kiss, and the kind language of his dear mother, that he forgets the unkind words, and the bad treatment which he may have received from his companions, and wishes only to please her? When West, the finest painter alive, was a little boy, he showed his mother a drawing which he had made; she gave him a kiss, which delighted him, and made him very desirous to go on with his little pictures, because his mother was so much pleased with them. He has often said, "That kiss made me a painter." Many of you, I dare say, have been often made happy in this way; and do you not think, that he must be very happy, to whom God says, and to whom Jesus Christ, who always says and does the same things with God, also says, "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you." A mother may forget her little infant, and have no compassion on him—and some such mothers I have seen; but God will not, cannot forget you, if you seek and love Jesus. Did he not make Jacob happy, though he had no bed but

the ground, and no pillow but a stone, when he appeared to him? Did he not make Joseph happy, even when his brethren hated him, and cast him into a pit, and when his enemies treated him cruelly, and shut him up in a dungeon? Did not Jesus make *her* happy, to whom he said, "Daughter be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace?" Do you not think, that those persons must be happy, who have the God of Peace for their Father, and the Prince of Peace for their Saviour; and the Spirit of grace for their Comforter; and whose sins are pardoned, and whose souls are filled with holiness, and wisdom, and knowledge? "Never," said Henry Scougal, a young man, who was once a minister, "Never doth a soul know what solid joy is, till it give itself up to the author of our being, and can say, from an inward sense of feeling, "My beloved is mine, and I am his." O how happy are those who have placed their love on him who can never be absent from them. They can converse with him whom their soul loveth; and this makes the darkest prison, or the wildest desert, not only supportable, but delightful to them. I lately asked a boy if he had peace of mind, "Yes," said he, "I was for some time filled with fear and distress, and I thought every moment that God would send me suddenly to hell; but I hope I have been led to Jesus, who died for

sinners, and I now have peace and happiness in my mind."

If you seek and love Jesus, he will keep you from every danger, and from every evil. Children are very often in danger, and they are so weak, that they cannot do much to deliver themselves from it. Cain knew that he was in great danger, when he cried out, "every one that findeth me shall slay me." Was not the danger of Ishmael great, when he was cast under one of the shrubs, after his bottle of water had been all spent, and when he was just ready to die for thirst. Poor helpless boy! little could he do to relieve himself. Many of you are as weak and as helpless as he was, and you are all every moment in the greatest danger. Your bodies are in danger of being hurt by a thousand accidents and diseases; and your souls are in danger of being hurt by sin, and by wicked companions, and by Satan; and your souls and bodies are in danger of being cast into hell. But if you seek and love Jesus, he will keep away every danger, and every evil. He is now sitting on his throne, "clothed with a vesture dipped in blood;" "and he hath on his vesture, and on his thigh, a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Neither the world, nor the devil, nor sin, nor death, nor hell can hurt those who seek and love Him, who keeps his children as the apple of his eye. He will deliver you from

all evil, when your parents and friends can do nothing for you; just as he did Moses, when he was put into the ark of bulrushes, and laid in the flags by the river's brink; and when a breath of wind would have cast the weeping babe into the midst of the stream, to be drowned in the waters, or destroyed by the wild beasts which lived in them. He will deliver you, when your parents are far from you; just as he did Joseph, when far from his fond and beloved father. He will deliver you, when no human being could save you, and when one moment longer would be your last: just as he did Isaac, when he was laid on the altar, and when the hand and the knife were stretched forth to slay him. He will deliver and preserve you, when wild beasts, and wilder men, seek to kill you; just as he did David, when the lion and the bear, and Goliah, sought to destroy him; or as he did Daniel, when cast into the den of lions. The angel who redeemed Jacob from all evil, will preserve you also from every evil, in life, and at death, and for ever, if you seek and love him. "Do not be afraid, mamma," said one of the finest little boys I ever knew, "when papa and the children are out; God is with you, and holy angels are with you, and they will keep away every danger and bad thing."

If you seek and love Jesus, he will receive you into his family, and give you every bless-

ing, and every good thing which you need. Wicked children, who do not seek nor love Jesus, "are of their father the devil," and to his family they belong, and his work they perform, and his wages they shall receive. Is it not a dreadful thing to be, like the sons of Eli, sons of Belial, or like Elymas who was a child of the devil? Is it not a dreadful thing to belong to the family of Satan, when God says, "the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, and they shall be utterly burnt with fire, in the same place." Seek Jesus, and he will receive you into his family, and make you his own children. These are the kind terms in which you are called to leave the family of Satan, and your bad companions, and to become the children of God. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." How happy would some of you think yourselves if you were the children of a king, and lived in a palace, and had every earthly thing you could desire. But is it not much better to be the children of the King of glory, and to have every good thing which you need? Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, and left the palace, and the crown, and the treasures of Egypt, that he might have the honour and the happiness of being a son of God. You cannot think how great a

thing it is to be the children of God. God loves every one who is a member of his family, and says of him, as he said of Ephraim, "Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? I will surely have mercy upon him." He teaches them as a father does his children; and he is so wise, that he cannot, like other parents, err, or lead them astray; and he defends them, as a father does his child, and is so mighty, and so near to them always, that they must be safe with his everlasting arm underneath them; and he chastens them when they commit a fault, as a father does his son; and he will not, like some other parents, correct them too little, as the father who spareth the rod, and hateth his son; nor too much, as the parent who has no mercy on his child. God allows his children to come to his presence, and he listens to all of their complaints, and supplies all their wants. He gives them all things, for they are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ; and they will inherit the kingdom prepared for them. Those children who love Jesus, and are his children, are loved by all the holy angels, who are also sons of God, and who minister to the children of Jesus, and watch over them, and at last carry their souls to Abraham's bosom. All the ministers, and all the people of God, love the children of Jesus, and they pray for them, and delight in teaching them, and all Heaven loves them, and longs to see them

there, that they may be perfectly happy with their Father, their Saviour, and their brethren in glory.

If you seek and love Jesus, you will get eternal life. Few children, and few old people, think how much they need Jesus, that they may have eternal life. Many live as if they were never to die, and they die without love to Jesus, and are sent to the place of misery, where they shall be companions to devils, and to wicked men, for ever. "He that believeth not the Son, shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." This wrath abides on all who do not seek nor love Jesus, and it follows them when they go out, and when they come in, when they are asleep, and when they are awake; and it will abide on them for ever, if they die without love to Jesus, and sink them under its weight, and it can never, never be removed from them. Soon will the great day of his wrath come, and who shall be able to stand? Those only will be able to stand, who have sought and found Jesus. He tells you, in this chapter, that he that findeth him, findeth life. "Jesus is the Prince of Life, the Living One, who is alive for evermore," and he has the keys of Heaven, as well as of hell, and he opens the everlasting doors of the new Jerusalem, and receives all who love him to himself, and gives them everlasting life, and light, and joy. He said to the thief on the cross,

"Verily, I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise;" and he says to each of us, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Those who seek and love Jesus, shall be eternally beholding his face, and happy in his love. They shall sit down under the shadow of the tree of life, and eat of its fruit, and that fruit will be never spent, and it will be always sweet to their taste. I have read these words in one of the letters of a good man, who wrote them when he was confined as a prisoner. "Christ is the fairest sight I see in this place, or any part that ever my feet were in. God hath made many fair flowers, but the fairest of them all is heaven; and the flower of all flowers is Christ. Desire your children to seek the Lord; desire them from me, to be requested, for Christ's sake, to be blessed and happy, and come and take Christ, and all things with him." I have now told you some of the things which all who seek Christ will get; and I shall tell you soon some of the things which those only who seek him early can get; and I wish you to remember, that if you do not get pardon, and holiness, and wisdom, and peace, and a place in Christ's family, and in his everlasting kingdom, you must be for ever shut up in a place of darkness and of torment.

ADDRESS V.

PART I.

I shall now tell you *how* you are to seek Jesus. You know, my dear children, that you do not seek any thing, till you believe that you have need of it. When you are hungry, you ask for meat; when you feel sickness, you wish for health; when you have need of money, you ask it. Now, you must believe, and feel, that you need a Saviour, before you will think of seeking him. You know that the prodigal son, that foolish and wicked young man, did not seek his father's house till he felt that he was dying with hunger. You are told, that Solomon felt his need of wisdom, before he sought and got it. It is very difficult to make children or other people keep in mind, that they need Jesus. Because you have parents, and friends, and food, and clothes, and amusements, you think you do not need *him*.—But, indeed, you do need him very much. God knows what you require much better than yourselves; and he tells you that you need a Saviour. Do you think that God would have sent him down from heaven into this world, if you did not need him? You know that Jacob was very

sorry to part with Benjamin, though he had many other sons; and unless he had seen his need of corn from Egypt, he would not, I dare say, have let him leave his house; and do you think that God would have parted with his only Son, if he had not seen your need of him? Do you think that Jesus would have left his Father's bosom, and have come to this world, and have suffered so much, and have died on the cross, if you did not need him? Do you think that the Holy Spirit would have told us in the Bible so much about Jesus; and would have said, "to-day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts," if you did not need him? Do you think that angels would have left Heaven, to tell the shepherds and to tell you, that a Saviour was born, and that his name was Jesus, if you did not need him? Do you think that Prophets and Apostles would have said so much about him, if you did not need him? Do you think that Ministers would be so often preaching about him, if you did not need him? Do you think that your teachers would tell you so much about him; or, that I would speak so much about him this night, if you did not need him? The devil himself knows that you need Jesus, and he tries on that account to make you neglect seeking him; and the wicked people in hell, such as the rich man mentioned in the New Testament, know that you need him, and say,

warn our brethren, lest they also come into this place of torment."

You know how much you need your parents, and that you would be very unhappy without them: but you need Jesus much more than you need your parents, for he supplies their place, and the place of every thing. Some of you have been very thirsty, and would have given any thing for a little water; but he is much more necessary than water was even to Samson, when he was sore athirst. Some of you, perhaps, have been out in a stormy night, and wished much to be near a shelter; but he is much more needful than a shelter is, even to those who see the lightning and hear the thunder, and are afraid every moment that they shall be destroyed. Jesus is a refuge from the wrath to come, and from the storm which shall beat against the wicked, and ruin them. But I cannot tell you what great need you have of him; you must believe that you have this need; that he is the one thing needful. A good minister told me lately, that he saw a little boy weeping and crying, because he felt his need of Jesus, and believed that he would be miserable without him. A little girl in Edinburgh said, when on her death-bed, to the servant, "Oh Kattie, I am a sinner, I have a sinful nature, and how shall I be delivered from it?" A young man said to me lately, "If there be a great sinner in the world,

surely I am that sinner; and if there be work for a Saviour any where, it is in my heart. When I wish to pray, I am so much ashamed of myself, and of my sins, that I can scarcely open my mouth; and I am so much afraid, that I tremble before God. I wonder that he has not cast me into hell, before this time; and I am sure that there is a many a one there who was not such a great sinner as I am, and that there is not a person out of it, who has more need of a Saviour than I have. God knows this, and my wounded conscience knows it too." You are not to think that this boy had been more wicked than others, and had been a thief, or a drunkard, or a swearer, or a bold sinner in the sight of men. No, he lived very quietly, and was thought a very good boy. But he lived without God, and without love to Jesus, and without concern about the salvation of his soul, even though he prayed, and went to church, and kept from wicked companions, and from open sins. He heard a sermon preached about the danger of those who do not love Jesus; and he began to see his own danger, and feel his need of a Saviour, and to seek Jesus; and I hope he will continue to seek him till he find him, and with him rest to his soul.

You must believe that Jesus alone can save you, and make you holy and happy. Many children and other people, think that they shall be saved, if they say their prayers, and

go to church, and read the Bible, and keep from cursing, and drinking, and such things. Now this is a very foolish and bad opinion. All these things should be done; but you should remember at the same time, that these things cannot save you, and that Jesus Christ alone can do this. If people could save themselves, there would be no need for a Saviour. God tells you, and Jesus tells you, and the Holy Spirit tells you, and Angels tell you, and all the Bible tells you, that He is the only Saviour; and that nothing can take away your guilt, and make you holy and happy, but the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. If you are hungry, water will not satisfy you; if you are thirsty, books or toys will not satisfy you; and if you feel your need of Jesus, nothing will satisfy you but finding *Him*. You know that Mary went to the sepulchre to seek Jesus, but found only an angel; now the angel did not satisfy her, for she sought her Saviour.

You must believe what the Scriptures say about the power and love of Jesus Christ. He has all power in heaven and in earth, and he can do whatever he pleases; and he is so good, and so kind, that he will give you all the things that you need, if you seek him. Indeed he will, and you must not think that he does not love the children who love and seek him, or that he will not be found of them, and love them. He is "the Prince of

Peace," and "the King of kings;" he is "the Mighty God, and the Everlasting Father;" and surely he *has power* to pardon, and bless you. He is the "Lamb of God, and the Merciful High Priest;" and surely he is *willing* to make you holy and happy. This then you must believe. You often hear ministers and teachers speaking of faith, or believing; now I will tell you one of the prettiest stories for children I ever read, which I saw in a book called Cecil's Remains, and a fine book it is. This good minister, who died lately, says, "My daughter was playing one day with a few beads, which seemed to delight her wonderfully; her whole soul was swallowed up in her beads: I said, "My dear, you have some pretty beads there." "Yes, papa." "And you seem to be much pleased with them." "Yes, papa." "Well, now, throw them behind the fire." The tears started into her eyes; she looked earnestly at me, as though she ought to have a reason for such a sacrifice. "Well my dear, do as you please, but you know I never told you to do any thing which I did not think would be good for you." She looked at me a few minutes longer, and summoning up all her fortitude, her breast heaving with the effort, sne dashed them into the fire. "Well," said I, "there let them lie, you shall hear more about them another time, but say no more about them now." Some days after,

I bought her a box full of larger beads and toys of the same kind; when I returned home, I opened the treasure, and set them before her; she burst into tears of joy. "These, my dear child," said I, "are yours, because you believed me, when I told you it would be better to throw those two or three paltry beads behind the fire; now that has brought you this treasure. But now, my dear child, remember as long as you live, what faith is. I did all this to teach you the meaning of faith. You threw your beads away when I bid you, because you had faith in me, that I never advised you but for your good. Put the same confidence in God; believe every thing that he says in his word, whether you understand it or not; have faith in him that he means your good." Now, my dear young friends, when God commands you to believe in Jesus, and to part with all things for him, it is for your good, and you must believe him, and seek Jesus as he bids you.

You must seek Jesus by prayer. Seeking Jesus means, particularly, praying to him; and all who seek him, must do this by prayer. He knows well what you need, but he wishes you to feel your wants yourselves, and to make them known to him by prayer. God well knew what Solomon needed, but he said, "ask what I shall give thee." Jesus knew that Bartimeus needed his sight, but he said to him, "What wilt thou that I should do

unto thee?" Prayer must be made, because God is called the hearer of prayer, and those children who do not pray, do all they can to take that name from God. You know that Jesus never shut his ears against the prayers that were made to him when he was on earth. You read that Jacob wrestled with the angel, and that angel was Jesus Christ; and when Jacob wept and made supplication, he got what he asked from him. If you pray earnestly to him, he will answer your prayer; indeed he will. Perhaps you do not know how you are to pray; but if you try, you shall find that he will teach you to pray.

> "And your whole hearts shall seek the Lord,
> He'll put a praying spirit there."

I will mention three beautiful short prayers from the Old Testament. The first is that of Moses: "O satisfy us early with thy mercy." The next is that of Jabez: "O that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me." The last is that of David: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me; remember not against me the sins of my youth." I will mention three other short prayers from the New Testament, which were all answered. The first is that of Bartimeus: "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy upon me." The second is that

of the publican: "God be merciful to me a sinner." The third is that of the dying thief: "Lord, remember me when thou comest to thy kingdom." These prayers may be easily remembered, and should be often repeated; and there are many other prayers for children in the Bible. You must not think that you are to pray only in the morning and at night; you must pray often. You must pray for every blessing that you need; and particularly for the Holy Spirit, to change your hearts and nature, to make you love Jesus, to keep you from all sin, and to lead you in the way to Heaven: yes, you *must* pray for this Spirit, because, without Him, every thing that you can do will be of no use. The seed that is sown in the earth will not grow, unless the rain and the dew fall on the ground, and unless the sun shine on it; neither will any good thing grow in your hearts, unless the Spirit of grace descend, to plant and water it, and warm it, and make it grow. Remember then to seek Jesus by prayer. A little boy is mentioned in a pretty little book, called Janeway's Token for Children, who prayed and wept so much seeking Jesus, that the people in the next house, hearing him often, said, "that boy's prayers and tears shall sink us into hell!"* He shed tears because he

* They meant that if they did not follow the example of this boy and repent too of their sins, and seek the Saviour, they would be lost.

had often sinned against Jesus Christ, and grieved him, and he prayed for pardon. I asked a little girl, who wished me to pray by her bed-side, a few weeks ago, "What do you wish me to pray for?" She answered, "pray that God may have mercy on my soul." I said, "don't you wish me to pray that you may get better?" She said, "I would not desire to get better, if God would pardon my sins, and have mercy on my soul." If any of you go to bed to-night without praying to God to have mercy on your souls, there is great danger that you will do the same to-morrow, and next day, and every day; and that you will never seek nor love Jesus, and never go to Heaven.

PART II.

You must seek Jesus by reading the Bible The Bible, I told you already, was given us, to tell us about Jesus Christ; and he commands us to search the Scriptures, because they testify of him. You know that it is said of Timothy, that "from his youth he had known the Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation." Many of you read the Scriptures, and can repeat long passages from them, who do not love them, nor Jesus Christ. You read them often, not that you may know about Jesus, but that you may be able to say your tasks. It is

very proper to have your tasks; but you should remember, that unless you love what you read, and wish to understand it, and to do what it bids you, it will not be of any use to read it. There are many wicked people and children, who have a great deal of the Bible by heart; but they do not love the Bible, nor what it says, and they are worse than those people and children who never saw nor heard of the Bible.

You must pray that God would make you understand what you read. You read that the Ethiopian did not find Christ in the passage of Isaiah which he read, till he was pointed out to him by Philip. You must pray that the Spirit would open your understanding, that you may understand the Scriptures. A blind person cannot see though the sun shines; and you cannot see though you have the gospel, till your eyes are opened, and till the veil is taken from your heart. Hagar did not see the well, till God opened her eyes. The Scripture is called "the Sword of the Spirit;" now, you know, that a sword, though it be very sharp, will not do any thing, till some one takes it into his hand, and uses it. The Bible will not be of use to you, till the Spirit uses it as his sword. You must read with humility, and as little children sit at the feet of Jesus, who teaches the humble. You must think on what you read, after you have done reading; when you go

out, and when you come in; when you are walking on the streets, or in the fields, and when you are lying in your beds; when you are at your work; at all times you should be thinking of what you read. A young man told me, that his father advised him to do this, and he did it; and he found Jesus, and loved him, and went to heaven a few years ago. I cannot tell you how many boys and girls, of whom I have read, have found Jesus Christ by reading the Bible. The reports of the Bible Societies are full of such accounts. I will tell you one only: A very wicked boy went last year into a shop, and when the Bible Society was mentioned he fell into a rage, and showed that he hated Jesus Christ, by saying dreadful things against the Bible: the master of the shop told this to his little girl on her death-bed, who was a very good child, and asked her what should be done: "Oh Father!" she replied, "subscribe for a Bible for him." This was done, and the Bible was given to the boy; and what the little girl had said, mentioned at the same time. He was struck with what the child said, received the Bible, took it home, read it, and believed what it told him; and he became a very good boy, and read the Bible to others, which was very useful to many of them, who also sought and found Jesus.

You should also read good books and tracts. I could tell you about many young

persons, who found Jesus by reading good books.* We are told, in a fine little book, called the Retrospect, about a sailor boy, who was converted by reading Doddridge's Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul. The sailor happened to take this book out of a box, that was lying near him. He began to read it, but as he did not like what he read, he soon threw down the book. He took it up again, but soon cast it into the box, and wished the hour were come when he would be allowed to leave the part of the ship where the book lay. At last the hour came, and he hastened from the spot, and went to dinner. He had scarcely ended his dinner, when he rose up, left his drink to the other sailors, ran to the box, took up the book, and began to read. He continued reading it, and he became a very good young man. "When I first took up Alleine's Alarm," said the charming boy, Joshua Gilpin, a little before his death, "I feared to find upon myself all the marks of the unconverted; but though I was once under the dominion of some of those sins which are there enumerated, Alleine has taught me both the need and advantage of a Saviour, and I am freed from their bondage." "This little volume," says his father, "was regularly lying before him,

* The publications of the American Sunday School Union have been blessed to the conversion of many, of different ages.

from his rising to his retiring hour; and if, at any time, he visited the garden, in order to enjoy the cheering beams of the sun, it was his companion there." Henry Kirke White, a very promising and pious young man, was led to Jesus by reading Scott's Force of Truth; and six brothers found Jesus by reading Baxter's Call to the Unconverted. I have read of many who have been brought to the Saviour by reading religious tracts. A young lady who disliked religion, fell into a consumption. Her father gave her the Dairyman's Daughter, one of the finest tracts we have. She had scarcely read it, when tears of sorrow for her sins began to flow, and a change of views and of heart began to take place; and, nine months after, she died in great happiness, committing her soul to the hands of her Saviour. A sailor told me lately that he had been a very wicked young man, and had no concern about his soul; but that a tract had been the means of making him think of his danger, and of showing him his need of Jesus, in whom, after much distress of mind, he has now found rest to his soul. Good books and tracts, you see, have been useful to others, and they may be useful to you if you read them. There are many books and catechisms, and hymns for children now printed, and you should read them with great attention, and pray to God to bless what you read, and what you commit to memory. You

know who said to Timothy, "Give attendance to reading."

You must seek Jesus by *hearing the Gospel.* You know that Jesus has promised to be with his servants who preach the Gospel, and to bless what they say. In this chapter he says, "Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors." If a person should tell you that he would be in a particular place at a certain time, would you not, if you wanted to see him, go to that place at that time? Jesus was found by his mother in the temple, and he is still found by children in the church. You know that three thousand of the people of Jerusalem found him, by hearing one sermon preached by Peter. I could tell you about many children who sought and found Jesus in this way. I was lately told of a boy, who heard the minister preaching, who told me the story, and he was very much concerned about his soul, and spoke to the minister, who gave him some advice. Next morning, the minister was to preach many miles from the place where he left the boy; but how much was he surprised, when he saw the boy hearing him at that place too! He travelled all night, that he might hear about Jesus. I know several young people who, I believe, have found Jesus in the church. Many children stay from church, and are busy in play, and mischief, when they should

be seeking Jesus; but if they continue in this way, they must go to the place of misery at last. But remember that it is not enough that you go to church; you must attend to what you hear. Many a time have I seen children very inattentive in church, looking about them and smiling, and playing with their books, or hats, or gloves; I have often seen them sleeping in church. You must remember, that the minister is speaking the words of God, and that if you do not attend, you mock God as well as him. You should remember that ministers are speaking to *you*, though they do not always mention children as particularly spoken to, in their sermons. A little girl, who died not long ago in Edinburg, was asked by a minister whose church she attended, if she recollected his preaching from the words, "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd;—he shall gather his lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom?" "Yes," she replied, "I remember it very well, for all the time you were preaching, I was wishing with *all my heart*, that I were one of Christ's lambs." You must try to remember what you hear, and be thinking about it when you go home; and you must pray that God would bless it to you, and make you able to believe and do what the minister said should be believed and done.

You must seek Christ, by *attending the*

Sabbath-Schools. Many children have sought and found Jesus at the Sabbath-schools. I will tell you only about two or three. A woman said lately, when thanking the teacher of a Sabbath-School, for the care taken of her daughter, "I hope, sir, her father and I shall have reason to bless God to all eternity, for having sent her to this school." The woman then told him, that her husband had been a very bad man, fond of evil company, a drunkard and a swearer, and that he had wholly neglected his family. After Mary (that was the child's name) had been sent to school, she used to reprove her father, in the most gentle manner, for his oaths and wickedness. One Sabbath-day when he came home quite drunk, and was using the most dreadful oaths, Mary shuddered at his words, and said, "Oh, my dear father, if you knew how wicked it was to say such bad words, I am sure you would not say them!" These words struck him very much, and he thought on his former wicked ways, gave up drinking and swearing, became very kind to his wife and child, went regularly to church, read the Bible, and began to seek and to love Jesus Christ. The woman also said, that she herself became concerned about salvation since Mary had been at school, and read the Bible to her. A girl was asked on her death-bed lately by her teacher, if she understood what she read? She said, "Yes, I was reading a chapter

where it says, the wicked shall be turned into hell, with all them that forget God; and I know that I am a sinner, and deserve nothing but his displeasure, but I hope he will pardon me, and take me to himself." Of another girl, a Sabbath-School teacher says, "I visited her on her death-bed three or four times; Jesus was the subject she wished to talk of; it was a theme ever sweet, and ever new. His love for a guilty world, and for her as a guilty sinner in particular, caused her to praise him. I trust her happy spirit is now rejoicing with her Saviour." In a beautiful letter, written lately by the girls who attend a Sabbath-School in Scotland, to the Children attending Sabbath-Schools in Ireland, are the following sentences: "O! what a mercy is it, young though we be, and very ignorant still; yet it is cause of ceaseless praise, that we have been taught to read that blessed book, the Bible. We request you to hear us from Scotland, saying to you, Search the Scriptures, for they testify of Christ; they will tell you what he is, and what he hath done; they lead you to God, to Christ, and to Heaven. And if we should never see you in the flesh, we hope to meet you in Heaven, to praise the great Jehovah, for what he is in himself, and what he is to us, and that to all eternity, our God and portion. Behold he now stands at the doors of your hearts, ready to bless you." A little boy in this place, who is in very bad

health, thought, a few nights ago, that he was just dying. He called his parents and the rest of the children to his bed-side, and in a very striking manner spoke to them as for the last time. When parting with the children, he strongly advised them to attend the Sabbath-School, as it was there he got what was his comfort, and his hope in his last moments. Now you see that children have sought and found Jesus Christ at Sabbath-Schools; and should not you seek him, where many, many have found him?

In such ways must you seek Jesus, and you must begin to seek him this very night. Many of you may think that it is too soon for you to seek Jesus; but God's thoughts are not as your thoughts; for he says, "Behold *now* is the accepted time, behold *now* is the day of salvation." Many of you think that it will be soon enough to seek Jesus *to-morrow;* but God says, "*to-day*, if ye will hear his voice, then harden not your hearts." You may be in the eternal world before to-morrow, and you cannot then seek nor find him. Most of you, I dare say, think that you will seek him before you die; but you will afterwards hear, that you will be in danger of not finding him, if you do not seek him at this moment. A young person told me lately, with his eyes full of tears, and his heart full of sorrow, "the devil and his own heart had often told him, that it was too soon for him to

repent, and forsake his sins, and seek Jesus, but that he now found that he was deceived, —that he now found that sin was very bitter, and the ways of sinners very hard." The text tells you, that you must seek Jesus early; and whilst it is early in the year, as well as in your lives, seek him, and say,

> "From all the guilt of former sin,
> May mercy set us free;
> And let the year we now begin,
> Begin and end with Thee."

You must seek Jesus with all your hearts. Moses said to the children of Israel, "set your *hearts* unto all the words which I testify among you this day." David says to his son Solomon, "know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind;" and Isaiah says, "with my spirit within me, will I seek thee early." Jesus was very diligent in working out your salvation; he was engaged in this work with all his heart, and he commands you to strive to enter in at the strait gate, and "to labour for the meat that endureth unto everlasting life." Jesus says to you, "my son, give me thine heart." You know that children have been giving and receiving new year's gifts to-day: now, after you have given away all the gifts which you can spare, I think you should now give to Jesus the only gift which he asks, or will accept from you—

your *heart*. The wise men gave him gifts —gold, frankincense, and myrrh; and the daughters of Tyre are to offer him gifts; and why should not the daughters and sons of other places do the same? Jesus does not wish you to be losers by giving him your hearts; for if you give him your vile and worthless hearts, he says, "A *new* heart will I give unto you." Now, do you not think that a new heart would be the best new year's gift that you ever got? Indeed, I am sure it would; and I am sure you should give Jesus your hearts, which are so wicked, and so bad, that you may get from him new, and good, and holy hearts. When all the scholars were offering presents to a teacher, who lived far away, and long ago, one boy said, "Sir, I have nothing to give you; but if you will take me, I will bestow myself upon you." "Wilt thou so?" said his master, "then I will give thee thyself better." Now if you give your hearts to Jesus, he will give them back much, much better than he found them.

You must seek him above every other thing. I told you already some of the things that you will get, if you seek and love Jesus; and I am sure that they are worth every other thing that you can seek. Those who seek and find Jesus, get every thing; for it is said to such persons, "all things are yours, and ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's." Those who have found Jesus, may say,—

"Thou art, of all thy gifts, thyself the crown,
Give what thou canst, without thee we are poor,
And with thee, rich, take what thou wilt away."

You must imitate the example of the merchant mentioned by Jesus, who sold all that he had, in order to buy the pearl of great price. You know that there is a young man mentioned in the gospel, who would not give up his riches for Christ. And a very good man tells us, that when he was young, and used to pray to God, he was afraid that God would answer his prayers, and make him good; and that he would then be obliged to give up all wickedness, and leave every thing for Jesus. God says, "little children, keep yourselves from idols." And do you know, my dear children, that every thing that keeps you from seeking and loving Jesus, is an idol? You pity the black man who bowed down and worshipped the stone idol in the grove; but you should pity yourselves as much, if you love amusements, or dress, or beauty, or money, or even parents, or any thing, more than Jesus. Every thing that you love more than Jesus is an idol; and you should now say, with Ephraim, "what have I to do any more with idols?" and, like the disciples of Jesus, leave all and follow him. A child was asked by his mother, why he did not take more notice of a pretty lamb which she gave him? "I am thinking," said he, "of the Lamb of God, who presented me to the Father." He sought

and loved Jesus above every thing in the world.

You must seek Jesus, though others should not do so. Many boys and girls, and old people, are running in the broad way that leads to destruction; but you are not to imitate their example, nor "to follow a multitude to do evil." Many of your acquaintances would wish to hinder you from seeking Jesus; and in this respect they are like the devil; who, because he is wicked and miserable himself, goes about trying to make others wicked and miserable. Each of you must die, and stand before the judgment-seat of Christ, and answer for himself; and it will not give any pleasure to those who are sent to hell, to know that there are many with them in that place. On the contrary, this will make the pain of the fiery lake greater, as those who are companions in wickedness here, will be companions in misery there; and they will be accusing one another, and blaming one another, for ever. Abel was good, and loved God, though Cain was wicked, and hated God and his brother; Isaac was good, though his brother was bad; and Joseph was good, and sought and loved God, though his brothers did not do so. You know that it is said of Abijah, "In him there is found some good thing in the house of Jeroboam." Though Jeroboam was a bad king, and worshipped idols, and did not seek God, his

young son had some good thing in him. Though your parents, and brothers, and sisters, should all forget God and Jesus, you must "remember your Creator in the days of your youth," and seek and love him. I know a young man, of whom I was told, that when the boys who wrought with him went to play themselves, or to do mischief, he went always to read his Bible, or to pray in a corner of the house. Jesus "trod the wine press alone;" and you must seek him though alone.

You must seek Jesus without wearying. Many children and other people begin to seek Jesus, and continue for a time, but they afterwards weary. Now, you know that there is no good in seeking any thing, and giving over before it be found. You read that the woman who lost the piece of silver, did not tire of searching for it till she found it. If you want to get any thing from your parents, you ask it, and you continue to ask it till you get it from them. If you wish to learn to read, you must continue at school till you are taught; and no boy ever became a good scholar in a few days. You cannot learn a business in a few days or months; you must be years learning it. You know that Jesus did not get weary of seeking your salvation; he never thought of stopping till he had finished the work given him to do. Jacob did not weary of wrestling with the angel, but said, "I will not let thee go except thou bless

me." Ruth could not be separated from Naomi, and her people, and her God. Many a young person begins to ask the way to Zion, and walks for a short time in that way, but when the road becomes hard, or rough, or thorny, the little traveller stops and turns back. Some of them go far on, and seem to be just standing at the gates of heaven, but they do not enter in. The foolish virgins did this; the young man that was not far from the kingdom of heaven did this. Do you not pity this young man? I do pity him, and I never think about him without feeling very, very sorry for him. Remember, my dear children, that God says, "If any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." God will have no pleasure in you who seek Jesus for a time, but afterwards forsake him; and Jesus will have no pleasure in you; and angels, if they could, would weep for you; and your teachers will be grieved for you; and I will be sorry for you. "If thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

ADDRESS VI.

I am now to show you, that if you seek Jesus early in this way, you shall find him. Jesus Christ, who speaks to you in the text, is "the Faithful and True Witness;" and every thing which he promises he will give. Many children and other persons make promises, but they do not intend to keep their word; but Jesus Christ never said one thing and intended another, for "he is not a man that he should lie." You often repent that you have made a promise, but Jesus never repented of any thing he said, for "he is not the son of man that he should repent." You often make promises which you cannot perform; but Jesus knows well that he has all power, and can do every thing, and, having made a promise, he cannot break it. He promised to God that he would work out salvation for sinners, and you know that he kept this promise, though the keeping of it brought him into this wicked world, and made him suffer, and sweat great drops of blood, and die on the accursed tree. We may be sure that Jesus, after having kept this promise, cannot break any one which he makes. No; "the heavens and the earth shall pass away, but his words cannot pass

away." All the promises in the Bible are signed by the hand of Jesus, and written with his blood, and they cannot be broken.

The words of the text are sufficient to show you that those who seek Jesus early shall find him, though there should be no other promise of that nature in the Scriptures; but there indeed are many other promises of the same kind made in the Bible. You know the beautiful words spoken about Jesus: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, he shall gather the *lambs* in his arms, and carry them in his bosom." Now, the lambs are the young, and the weak, and the ignorant. Some of you may have never seen a lamb, but I can assure you that he is a very weak, and foolish, and wandering creature; he runs away from the fold and the grass, and goes astray, and would often perish with the cold, or be killed by the wild beasts, or die for want of food, if the shepherd did not go after him. And very often when he sees the shepherd, he is afraid and runs from him, and thinks he is an enemy. But the kind shepherd is fond of the little wandering creature, and goes after him, and catches him, and leads him back to the fold. If he cannot keep up with the rest of the flock when they are going out to pasture, or coming home to the fold, then the shepherd kindly helps him forward; and if he is so weak as not to be able to walk, then the shepherd takes him in

his arms and carries him; and if he be cold and ready to die, then the kind shepherd folds his cloak about him, and lays him in his bosom, and carries him with the greatest gentleness and care. Now, you know that Jesus says, "I am the good Shepherd;" and he is kinder to children who seek him, than any other shepherd is to his lambs. Though the children who are beginning to seek him are still very ignorant, and weak, and can go but slowly, he does not neglect them; he takes them up in his arms that were once nailed to the cross, just as he did when he was in this world—"He took them up in his arms and blessed them;" and when they are very weak, and ready to die with cold and hunger, he places them in his bosom.—When they are placed in that bosom, they cannot be hurt by cold, or by hunger, or by wild beasts.

This shepherd is also called the Lamb of God, because he is so kind, and so gentle, and so full of love; and can you think that he will forget little children, and the lambs of his flock? No; he cannot, indeed he cannot do this; he will guide them, and defend them, and feed them; he will carry them in his arms and bosom, over hills and valleys, over rivers and deserts, and at last over the valley of the shadow of death; and he will then open the door of his large and eternal fold, and take them in, and feed them, and lead them by fountains of living water. Jesus

says to you, "How shall I put you among the children?" He has already a large and happy family, and he wishes you to become members of that family, and asks yourselves how he can place you among his children You cannot tell how this can be done; but he says, "Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My Father, thou art the guide of my youth?" Do you not see, then, that he knows that young persons need a guide, that he offers to be their guide, and wishes them to take him for their guide from this very moment. But I cannot tell you all the promises made by Jesus to children, to those that seek him early. Every one of these promises shows us, that if you seek him he will be found of you. Believe then his word, and seek Jesus who speaks so kindly about you.

You know what Jesus said about children when he was on earth: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." Can you, after hearing these words, think that he will not be found of you, if you seek him? He was displeased with his disciples, because they were not willing to let the children be brought to him. He has much greater love to children that seek him, than any parent, or teacher, or minister can have. Do you not know what he said to Peter, when he was about to leave this world, and to go back to the place from which he came?

After Peter had said, "Thou knowest that I love thee," Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." Perhaps he was afraid that Peter and the disciples would not be mindful of his lambs after he should leave them, and he desires Peter not to forget them, but to feed them. His words are just as if he had said, "My lambs, dear little creatures, are weak and foolish, and they cannot feed themselves; but Simon, son of Jonas, do thou defend them, and guide them, and feed them; if thou lovest me, as I know thou dost, show thy love by feeding my lambs. Tell them that I wish to see lambs in my flock, and that I soon shall have no flock at all unless my lambs be attended to. Tell them, that when I was just ready to go to heaven, I remembered them, and gave strict orders to thee, and to all those who have charge of my flock, to be very kind to my lambs; and tell them, that I, the Chief Shepherd, promised them a part of my kingdom, a share of my throne, a seat at my table, and a place in my heart." Do you think, my dear young friends, that Jesus can forget his lambs, after having said such kind things about them to Peter? Do you think that he wished Peter to show greater kindness to his lambs than he himself does? No; this must not be thought; the heart of Jesus is full of love, and from that heart has flowed all the love which Simon Peter, and John, and all the ministers and

people of God, have felt and shown to the lambs of his flock.

You know, that there are many persons mentioned in the Scriptures, who sought and found Jesus early. In the Old Testament you read of Isaac, and Joseph, and Moses; of Samuel, and David, and Solomon; of Rachel, and Ruth, and Esther; of Josiah, and Abijah, and Obadiah; of Jeremiah, and Daniel, and the three young men who were cast into the furnace; and of many more who sought and found Jesus when they were young. In the New Testament, you read of John, who leaned on the bosom of Jesus; of Timothy, who from his youth, sought and loved Jesus; of the children of the elect lady, who walked in the truth; and of others, who sought and found Jesus in their youth. Now, when you read of these persons who found Jesus in their youth, do you not see that those who seek him early shall find him? You know how much kindness Jesus showed to children when he was on earth: "He put his hands upon them, and blessed them." He was delighted when he heard them crying out, "Hosannah to the Son of David." When a nobleman prayed to Jesus to cure his son, he answered his prayer, and said, "Go thy way, thy son liveth." When a Samaritan woman followed Jesus, asking him to have mercy on her, and cure her daughter, who was "grievously vexed with a devil," he answered her

prayer, and her "daughter was made whole from that very hour." When a man cried out, "Lord have mercy on my son;" Jesus "rebuked the devil, and he departed out of him." You know, that after the young daughter of Jairus was dead, Jesus called her back again to life, and restored her to her weeping parents; and that, after the son of the widow of Nain was just about to be laid in the grave, Jesus raised him from the dead, and delivered him to his sorrowful mother, which made her as happy as a mother could be.

Now, after you have heard all this, you cannot think that Jesus will not be found of those who seek him early. He is just as kind and as good, though he is now in heaven, as he was when on earth. He is a "Merciful High Priest," and if you could see him standing on the right hand of God, you would behold LOVE written on his throne and on his crown, on his hands and on his heart.

You read in the Bible of the great love and kindness which God has always shown to sinners. Many young, and many old persons think, that the love of God to man, is not so great, so amazing, as that of Jesus Christ; but this is a very foolish and bad opinion. The love of God is the fountain, from which have proceeded all the broad and deep streams of mercy and grace, which have ever flowed through this world; and which like the waters seen by Ezekiel, have been

always increasing in depth and strength, and always spreading life and beauty, and richness and joy, wherever they have gone. Would you not be astonished at the love of God to sinners, if he had sent the "thousands of thousands" of glorious angels, who minister to him in heaven, into the world, that they might suffer and die for us? You think this would have been an amazing proof of God's love. But the evidence which he has given of his love in sending his Son into the world is much greater; yes, it is much greater than that which he would have given, had he sent Gabriel and Michael, and all the angels and archangels, and cherubim and seraphim around his throne, to suffer and to die for us. All these beings, though they excel in strength, in wisdom, in holiness, and in happiness, are only creatures. Jesus is not a created being, but "the brightness of God's glory, and the express image of his person." He is the Lord of angels; he made them, and he preserves them, and, had they all died for us, he could, by his word, have created a new race to supply their place in heaven. The death of Christ—of Immanuel, is the greatest evidence of God's love which could be given, even by Jehovah himself. "God is love. In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent his *only begotten Son* into the world that we might live through him."

Besides all the proofs of God's love which have been mentioned, there are many other things said in the Bible, which show how good and kind God has always been to children. You read that when God called Abraham, and promised to bless him and to be his own God, he also said that he would bless his children and be their God; and, in every age after that, he made promises, not only to his people but also to their children. "The promise," said Peter to the Jews, "is unto you and to *your children;*" for God had said, that they should know God from the least of them unto the greatest of them. You read that when Pharaoh had agreed to let the Israelites depart out of Egypt, he wished to keep their "little ones" behind; but that Moses, who did only what God commanded him, would not depart till he had got all the children with him. Cruel Pharaoh, not the Pharaoh who was so kind to Joseph, had before this caused many of the infants to be drowned, and he now wished to kill all the children, but God delivered them; and will he not deliver you from Satan and all your enemies, if you seek and love the Saviour.

You read that God commanded the Israelites to teach their children, and to answer all the questions which they should ask about the worship and services performed by them; and will he not answer you when you ask, like the young man mentioned in the gospel,

what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? God says to his people, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." He commanded them to bring all their children together at certain times, that they might hear the law of God read, and learn to fear him, that it might be well with them. He was much pleased with Abraham, because he would command his children to keep the way of the Lord; and he was very much displeased with Eli, because he had not commanded and corrected his children when they sinned. He was very angry with the parents who made their children to pass through the fire to Moloch, and ordered them to be stoned to death. He delivered young persons from Babylon, where the three young men had been cast into the furnace, and brought them back to the land of their fathers, preparing a right way for the people and their "little ones." He spared Nineveh, that great city, partly because there were so many young persons in it.

Jesus teaches you how sure you are of finding him, by the beautiful story of the Publican. This man stood afar off, as if he thought that his unholy feet would defile the

temple, and he would not lift up his eyes to heaven, as if he feared to meet the face of an angry God; and he smote upon his breast, as one full of distress and sorrow for his sins; and he cried out, "God be merciful to me a sinner," as one who felt his need of mercy, and expected to be saved by mercy alone. He prayed and was pardoned, and the Saviour who had mercy on him, will save you, if you seek him as this man did. Jesus tells you, how great his love and mercy are, when he says to the man to whom he forgave a debt of ten thousand talents, "I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me;" and when he says of two other debtors, "And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both."

But I cannot tell you all the things which Jesus said, to show us how sure you are of finding him, if you seek him. You are told, that Manasseh, though a very wicked man, no sooner humbled himself, and sought God, than he found him, and was pardoned. You read, that the woman of Samaria no sooner sought living water from Jesus than she received it; and that the ten lepers no sooner cried, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us," than he heard, and answered their prayer Read all the Bible, and you will not find one person mentioned who sought Jesus early, and with all his heart, who did not find him. Read the New Testament, and you will not

see one person going away from Jesus without his blessing, if he truly sought it. Though the men who went to seek Elijah, did not, and could not find him, as he was in heaven, all those who seek Jesus shall find him. Though he is now in heaven, he is still near to all who call on him; and he is standing just ready to pardon and save them; and the Holy Spirit is willing to bless them. All the kind words spoken to you in the Bible, are the words of the Holy Spirit; and all the life, and light, and love—all the holiness, and peace, and joy bestowed on those who have sought and found Jesus, have been given by the Holy Spirit. He is still the Spirit of grace, and he is just waiting to be gracious to you, and he longs for your salvation, and he is grieved when you refuse to seek Jesus. Will you vex and grieve the Holy Spirit, who is so full of grace and love, by continuing careless about Jesus, and his salvation? I hope you will not, but that you will listen and obey, when, in words of kindness and grace, the Spirit says, "Come, and let him that is athirst come; and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

I hope you now see, that, if you begin to seek Jesus early, and continue to seek him, you shall certainly find him. If you see a child going to school early, and taking great pains to learn, do you not think that he will become a good scholar? If you see a person

going to his work in the morning, do you not think that he will have it finished before the night comes, in which no man can work? If you see a man busy in spring, preparing his ground, and sowing his seed, do you not think that he will reap in harvest, and have abundance of food? "He that gathereth in summer," says Solomon, "is a wise son," and he will have meat in winter. You see that "the little busy bee," which improves the fair and sunny days of summer, in making its beautiful cells, and in gathering its sweet food, does not want in winter, when it cannot go abroad in search of meat, and when a single flower is not to be found, from which honey could be taken. The small ant, though "she have no guide or overseer, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." Whilst the sun shines, however hot and long the day may be, she is busy at her work; and when the moon rises, and gives her light, she often goes, as we are told, to build her house, or to gather her food; and no sooner does she find any meat, than, like the bee, she hastens home with it, and lays it up for her winter provision. And when the cold and frosty winter comes, she finds herself very comfortable in the little house she built with such surprising care and labour, eating the food she gathered with such wonderful diligence and pains. "Go to the ant, consider her ways and be wise;" and

follow her example, by preparing in summer for the approach of winter, and you shall have no want, when others are perishing with hunger. "The stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times, and the turtle, and the crane, and the swallow, observe the time of their coming," and they leave one country when the cold approaches, and go to another, where it is summer, that they may be safe, and "have no winter in their year."

If you "take the wings of the morning," and flee for safety to Jesus, he will save you, and bring you to the land that is very far off, when you can say, "Lo! the winter is past, the rain is over and gone." He who prepared a place of safety for the dove of Noah, when she found no rest for the sole of her foot: he who provides for the raven his food, when his young ones cry unto God: he who supplies the wants of the young lions, when they seek their meat from God: he who satisfies the desire of every living thing—He will surely be found by all those who seek him early. The young lion may be hungry, and the young raven may cry in vain for food—the beasts of the field may perish through need—and the fowls of heaven may die through want; but those who seek Jesus early shall never, never seek him in vain. No; sooner shall the sun cease to shine, and the moon to give her light—sooner shall showers cease to fall, and rivers to roll

along—sooner shall seasons cease to change, and time itself to run, than Jesus cease to hear, and answer, and bless those who seek him early. "I am going to my Saviour," said Simeon Wilhelm to the servant who attended him on his death-bed, "and if you do love the Saviour, pray to him. *He will hear you.* Enter into your closet and pray, for he hath promised to hear you. I used to pray to my Saviour three times a day—in the morning, and when I came from the school, and at night. Tell your sisters to pray Tell them Simeon wishes you to say so to them." "Be sure," said Eliza Cunningham, on the day she died, "be sure you continue to call upon the Lord; and if you think he does not hear you now, he will at last, as he heard me; do you earnestly, and with all your heart pray to the Lord. If you seek him, you shall surely find him."

ADDRESS VII.

PART I.

You read in the gospel of a young man, to whom it was said, "Son, go work to-day in my vineyard," and who answered, "I will not." Perhaps some of you, when desired to seek Jesus early, say, like him, "We will not." If this is your language, look up—not to me, but to heaven, where Jesus sits, and tell him that you will not seek him; and remember that your words will be found written in his book, at the day of judgment. I hope some of you are like David, who no sooner heard God saying, "seek my face," than his heart said, "Thy face, O Lord, will I seek." If this is your language, be sure to do as you promise, and you shall find the Saviour. And O what a good thing it is to find Jesus early! I have already told you, that all who find Jesus, at any time, get pardon, and wisdom, and happiness, and eternal life; but those who find him early, get many things which cannot be got by those who do not find him till it is late. Attend now, for a few minutes more, whilst I tell you what some of these blessings are which belong only to those who seek and find Jesus in their youth.

If you seek and love Jesus early, you will be sure of going to heaven if you die when young. Every one of you may die young, but those only who find Jesus go to heaven when they die. A person who loves sin and wickedness cannot go to heaven, for nothing that defileth can enter that holy place; but all who love Jesus Christ, hate sin, and every thing bad, and when they die, however soon that may be, they are taken to heaven. Abel went to heaven, and so have all the good young people that have died since the world was made. Very often children who loved Jesus Christ, have been very happy on their death-beds, because they believed and knew that they were going to heaven. A person said to a young girl who died lately, a short time before her death, "You are a happy little girl." "How can I be but happy," said she, "when I am going to heaven!" "My dear Martha," said a girl in England to her sister, on her death-bed, "the Lord will comfort you." "He *does* comfort me," said she, "he comforts me *now*, he does comfort me *indeed*." She afterwards said, "O talk to me of heaven; the Lord is kind, very kind—I shall sleep in Jesus—I shall *rise* with him—I shall *rise* with him at the resurrection of the just! I triumph in Christ—praise him—happy! happy!" Would you not wish to be like these young persons, when you are just dying? Seek Jesus; and

though you may not be as happy on your death-bed as they were, yet you shall assuredly go to heaven. Your bodies shall sleep in their graves, which are the cradles in which Jesus makes the bodies of his children rest; and they shall be raised from these peaceful beds at the last day, and be made like the body of Christ; and your souls shall be again joined to them, and souls and bodies shall be made happy for ever. We cannot tell you how long you shall be happy in heaven; we cannot tell you what *for ever* means. If this world should be a heap of sand, and if one grain of this sand should be taken away to-night, and another grain at the end of a thousand years, and a third grain at the end of another thousand years, and so on in that slow way, till the whole heap of sand should be taken away, would it not take a long time to remove the whole? Indeed it would; but when that time were come, eternity would be only beginning.

"Days, months, and years must have an end;
Eternity has none;
'Twill always have as long to spend
As when it first begun!

Great God! an infant cannot tell
How such a thing can be;
I only pray that I may dwell
That long, long time, with thee."

If you seek Jesus and die young, you will leave your parents and friends happy behind you. Nothing can give comfort to good parents when their children die, but the thought that they have sought Jesus, and have gone to heaven to be with him. When the Shunamite's son, who, I dare say, was a good child, died, his mother was happy, and said, "It is well." Mrs. Graham says, "This day the dear Isabella joined the church triumphant, and took her seat among that company of little children which Christ pronounced blessed; my soul is satisfied, more than satisfied; I rejoice and congratulate the child on her early escape from a world of sin and sorrow, to the arms of her dear Redeemer."—Another lady says, when writing about her child, who died lately, "Nature mourns, whilst my spirit rejoiceth in God my Saviour: My child's joy at the prospect of going to God's throne, astonished and delighted every beholder; and to me, her afflicted and bereaved mother, has proved, and will ever prove, a source of sweet and unspeakable consolation." Mr. Black, lately a minister in Edinburgh, says of a sweet child of his who died young, "Our dear child is now, I trust, with Christ in heaven; what a marvellous change!—from a sick bed to a throne of glory!—from weeping friends to glorified spirits!—from a world of sin and suffering, to a world of perfect holiness and endless blessedness! It is an al

most overwhelming thought, that our sweet babe already knows more than the most perfect saint on earth!" The last words of Archibald Balfour were, "Glory, glory to the Lamb who died for me; he will put a crown of righteousness on my head, and clothe me with the garments of salvation." His father, Dr. Balfour of Glasgow, says, "I now desire to bless God for such a son; for permitting his parents to enjoy him for eight years; for making him so meet for the inheritance of the saints in light; and for enabling him to give such powerful testimony, in a dying hour, to the glorious efficacy of divine grace. We have resigned, to the supreme Lord of life and death, our lovely child, in the hope of seeing him again in the lovelier form of a glorified resemblance to the Son of God. Now his body moulders in the dust; but his spirit, we trust, is in perfect life before the throne of God."

Two days before the death of a very amiable and pious young lady, her father said to her, "I hope you feel satisfied of your interest in Christ." She replied, "Yes, my beloved is mine, and I am his." He asked, 'Have you felt the power of converting grace upon your heart?" She answered, "Yes, in the year 1815 I had experience of a change of heart." He said, "You would not part with your Saviour for a thousand worlds?" She earnestly replied, "*Oh no.*"

On the evening before her death, she called her father, mother, sisters, and aunt, to her bed-side, and said, "O come, come, and see a monument of divine grace. O, my dear father, pray earnestly for me, that this night, *this very night*, I may be in my Saviour's arms. O my dear Saviour, come, come quickly, for I am ready. O may I spend my first Sabbath to-morrow in heaven. O my dear sisters, love Jesus, and lay hold upon him, and I can tell you, that he will never, never forsake you. O my dear Saviour, come and receive me: to thee I ascribe all my salvation, and now, when I pass through the waters, O God, be thou with me. Come, O dear, dear Jesus, come quickly." She got her wish. That evening her father said to me, "I have parted with dear Jane, and, I believe, we shall meet no more on earth, and that she will spend the Sabbath with her beloved Saviour." And he tells us, that, next morning "It pleased her Heavenly Father to grant her request; and then, with a placid serenity, she resigned her spirit into the hands of her dear Saviour, and entered into the rest and joy of her Lord." He and her mother, and other relations, had peace and happiness in parting with her; and they give thanks to God for all that he had done for her and for them.

You see how happy your parents may be after your death, if you seek and love Jesus

early Think now sorry your death would make them if you die without love to Jesus. If Hagar could not bear to see the temporal death of her child, how can good people bear to think of the eternal death of their children? I dare say Eli would never have enjoyed a happy day, had he lived many years after the death of his two wicked sons. And I am sure that the sorrow of David was very great, when he heard of the death of wicked Absalom. He was much moved, and went up to his chamber and wept; and said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom, would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son."

If you seek Jesus early, you will, if you be spared till you grow old, be kept from many sins and wicked things which are done by those who have not sought him early. The children who do not seek nor love Jesus, are daily growing worse and worse, and displeasing God more and more; every day they add to their guilt and wickedness, and are becoming more fit for the place of misery. But those who seek and love Jesus in their youth, are kept from many sins, and from much wickedness which they would have done, if they had not sought him. Do you not think that Joseph was kept from many bad things during his life, by his having sought and found God in his youth? A very good old man wrote, in his last will, that he "thanked

God for having pardoned him when young, which kept him from many sins."

All those who seek Jesus early, are by their example showing the way to heaven to all who see them, and they are very useful in the world. Was there not much good done by Josiah, when, at the age of twelve years, he destroyed the idols which his father worshipped, and set up the service of the true God in Jerusalem? Was there not much good done by Joseph, who was the means of preserving the Egyptians and others from death? It was good for the Israelites that Moses, their deliverer, had known God early; and it is good for us that David and John, and others, sought and loved Jesus early. "I have ever thought," said one who had been very useful in the world, "that if I could contribute to the saving of a soul, it would be a star, a crown, and a glorious crown." A very good minister whom I knew, and who had been the means of bringing many young and old persons to Christ, said, when suffering a great deal of pain on his death-bed, "I would have gladly suffered all that I now suffer, during my whole life, for the sake of being the means of bringing one soul to Christ." O seek Jesus early, that you may help others to seek him, and to walk in the way that leads to heaven.

The sooner you begin to seek and love Jesus, the more time will you have, if God

spares you, to prepare for heaven. When Abraham had a long journey to perform, he rose early in the morning, and set out on it; and when Solomon had a great work to do, he began it in his youth, and saw it finished. There is no journey so important as that from time to eternity; there is no work so great as that of preparing for heaven; and is it not a good thing to set out on this journey, and to begin this work in the morning of your days? Your time may be short; your sun may go down at noon, and even sooner, your feet may soon lose all power to walk, and stumble on the dark mountains; and your hands may soon lose all strength to work, and grow cold, and feeble, and lifeless; and you may be called away to eternity before you have moved one step in the way to heaven, or wrought one day in preparing for another world. But however long your life may be, you will at last find it short enough for the great work you have to do. You require a long time for preparing to meet your teachers, and to repeat your tasks; and do you not need much time for preparing to meet God, and to serve him for ever? It requires much time and pains, to pluck out and destroy all the weeds, and briers, and thorns, which grow in waste ground, and to supply their place with those flowers and plants which are lovely, and fruitful, and profitable. Your hearts are, by nature, not only like the

mountains of Gilboa, without dew, and rain, and fields of offering, but also like the ground which the Lord has cursed, and which brings forth only thorns, and thistles, and hurtful weeds; and does it not require much time and labour, to tear up those roots of bitterness, and to have their place filled with the pleasant plants, which yield the fruits of righteousness? Is it not a good thing to have "time to pluck up that which is planted," and "time to plant," and time to receive the early and the latter rain, and to grow like the palm tree, and to "bring forth fruit in old age." Was it not good for Noah that he began his work so soon, and had so much time to finish it, before the flood came, and drowned all those who mocked him, and refused to build an ark? Would not those men consider Noah as the only wise man among them, when they saw him in a place of safety, and themselves carried away by the mighty waters? "If thou wouldst seek unto God by times, and make thy supplication to the Almighty, though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase." "You come hither," said Richard Baxter on his death-bed, to a friend, "to learn to die. I am not the only person that must go this way; I can assure you, that your life, be it never so long, is little enough to prepare for death." "O time, time!" said a wicked young man when dying, "A month! Oh for

a single week! I ask not for years, though an age were too little for the work I have to do."

If you seek and love Jesus early, he will love you, and God will love you in a particular manner, and will remember, when you are old, your early love. Great was the love of Jacob to his son Joseph, and great was his happiness when he heard that Joseph was yet alive; but greater is the love of Jesus to all who seek him, and greater is his joy when he sees a young person beginning to live to him, and to love him. It is thought that Jesus had such a particular love to John, because he was the youngest of the apostles. He was the beloved disciple, and he leaned on the bosom of Jesus at supper, and saw his glory on the mount; and when he grew old, and was sent to the Island of Patmos, and as some believed, confined in the mines, Jesus appeared to him, and said unto him "Fear not." The gardener is much delighted when he sees a young tree covered with fruit, and he waters it, and nurses it, and points it out as a very beautiful sight; and he expects, that when it is older, it will produce still more fruit. The kind master praises the servant who has grown old in his house, and he provides for him, and thinks it a pleasant duty to mention, and to reward his long and faithful services. "I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth," says God to his

people "O God," said David, "thou hast taught me from my youth: now also, when I am old and gray-headed, O God forsake me not." God will not, cannot forsake those who can make this prayer: for he says, "Hearken unto me, ye who are carried by me from the womb. And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you."

PART II.

Good people love those who seek and love Jesus early, in a particular manner. You are told, that old Eli was very fond of Samuel when a child; that Paul was filled with joy when he heard of the faith of young Timothy; and that John rejoiced greatly when he found the children of the elect lady walking in the truth. The people of God say now, as they did of old, "Let us get up early to the vineyards, let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear." We are all pleased with a fine morning, because it leads us to expect a fair day. When we walk abroad, we are delighted with the songs of the little birds, which sing so sweetly in the morning; and we are charmed with the tender buds and blossoms of the snow drop and primrose, and the other flowers which first appear in spring. But more pleasant than the dawn of morning, are those who

seek and love Jesus early, and whom "the day spring from on high hath visited." Sweeter than the songs of the grove are the songs of Zion, when lisped by an infant's tongue. More charming than the flowers of spring, are the blossoms which appear on those little plants which grow in the garden of the Lord, and on which the showers shall fall and the sun shine, till they appear covered with fruit, sweet to the taste and pleasant to the eye. Two good old men came lately to tell me, that some young persons who had been very thoughtless and wicked, were beginning to seek Jesus, and to meet together in order to pray, and read the Scriptures; and you cannot think how happy these good men were at seeing this change in the conduct of the young, and in telling about it. If one child should begin this night to seek and love Jesus, I think there would be joy, not only among all the inhabitants of heaven, but also among all your teachers, and all the people of God who should hear the good news; and I think I would rejoice with them, and cry out, like the children of Jerusalem, "Hosannah to the son of David." Mr. Lawson says, "Far rather would I be the spiritual father of one precious soul, than possess all the riches of Solomon—than call myself the Lord of a hundred nations."

The sooner you seek and love Jesus, the more happiness you will have in the world.

I have told you already how happy all those are who love Jesus, and I can now assure you that those who seek and love him early, are the happiest persons in the world. It is very pleasant to love parents and friends, and to know that they love us. Jonathan loved David very dearly; and David says of Jonathan, "Very pleasant hast thou been unto me; thy love to me was wonderful." If love between friends be so pleasant, how much more pleasant must it be to love Jesus, the greatest, and wisest, and best of friends, and to know that he loves us, and will bind us still more closely to his heart with cords of love which cannot be broken by life, or death, or hell? Do you not think that those who go early to the wells of salvation, and continue during the day drawing water out of them with joy, will have more of this water and of this joy, than those who do not go to the wells till evening come, when they have not much time to draw? Suppose three persons have the same journey to perform: one of them sets out without a guide to direct him, without provision to support him. He often loses his way, and stumbles and falls; he often hears the wild beasts roaring around him, and sees the clouds gathering over him, and the storm approaching to him; he is filled with fear and terror, and reaches the end of his journey, worn out, and almost lifeless. Another begins his journey, and proceeds for

some time just like the former person; but before he has travelled all the way he meets a friend, who guides, and supports, and protects him, till he has reached the end of his journey. The third person leaves home under the care of a wise and powerful friend, who directs his steps, supplies his wants, removes his dangers, and conducts him in peace to the end of his course. I need not tell you which of the three travellers has enjoyed most happiness by the way. And is not he the happiest person in the world who begins the journey of life under the care of the Saviour, and who walks all the day in the light of his countenance, defended by the keeper of Israel, supported by the bread of life, cheered by the songs of Zion, shaded by the plant of Renown, and conducted at last to the land of everlasting day and of perfect happiness? "O satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." "I saw you lately weeping in church," said one to an old man, "I was afraid you were unwell;" "I thank God," said he, "I enjoy good health, but I often weep when I think of my having lived till I became gray-headed, without knowing the peace and happiness which I now find in Christ." "This is my dying saying," said Mathew Henry, who found Jesus early, and served him long, "A life spent in the service of God and communion with him, is the most

comfortable and pleasant life that any one can live in this world."

The sooner you seek and love Jesus, the more can you tell in old age of his goodness and mercy towards you. I have seen children crowding round an aged soldier, and listening to him with delight whilst he told them of all the countries he had visited, of all the battles he had fought, of all the victories he had gained; of all his wounds, and dangers, and deliverances; and of all the great and brave actions performed by his commander. And I have seen young and old persons who love Jesus, flocking about an aged and "good soldier of Christ," and attending with joy to his language whilst he told them of his battles, and enemies, and victories; of his wounds, and dangers, and deliverances; of his fellow-soldiers and weapons of war; and particularly of the power, and skill, and goodness of Jesus, "the Captain of his salvation." Much does he tell, in order to instruct and warn others, of his own weakness and fears, and of the number, and strength, and cruelty of his enemies: and much does he tell, in order to encourage others, of him who often covered his head in the day of battle, and spread a banner of love over him; who often healed him when wounded, and raised him when fallen; who often enabled him, like Gideon's army, though "faint to pursue," even when others, like

the children of Ephraim, "turned back in the day of battle," and who often showed him that in all things he is more than conqueror through him that loved him. Does not the language of an aged person who loved Jesus early, refresh and gladden the heart, and, like that of Moses in his old age, distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb? Does it not, like that of Joshua in his old age, show, "that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord his God spake concerning him." Is it not pleasant to listen to what is said in old age, by him who has been drinking all his days out of the fountain of love, and who can tell us that in youth, and in old age, "in summer and in winter," he has always found that fountain a rich, and full, and refreshing well of living waters? Such a person is like the rose, which, though fairest when its leaves, sprinkled with the dew of the morning, are opening to the sun, yields the sweetest smell, when its colours have faded, and its leaves are withering. Is it not pleasant to hear Polycarp saying to those who were going to kill him, because he would not curse Jesus, "Eighty-six years have I served him, during all which time he never did me harm; how then can I blaspheme my king and my Saviour?" Though there are so many of you now hearing me, it is not likely that one of you will live so long as to be able to say what this man said; but

if you now begin to seek and love Jesus, you will be able, in less than eighty-six years, to tell much of his kindness and love towards you.

Those who seek and love Jesus early, are often the happiest people when dying in old age. I have seen a vessel returning from a long and prosperous voyage, and entering the harbour amidst shouts of joy, with a fair gale, and a full tide, and with its sails spread, and its flags waving in the wind. I have seen the sun rising in beauty among the blushes of the morning, and marching in strength through cloudless skies, and setting in glory, painting the heavens and the earth with its mildest and sweetest beams. I have seen a dutiful and beloved son lying on his death-bed, whilst his fond parent watched over him, and smoothed his pillow, and wiped away his tears, and did all that kind looks, and words, and actions could do, to comfort and relieve him. And I have seen the aged Christian, who sought and found Jesus early, filled with peace, happy in the love of Jesus, and rejoicing in hope of the glory of God, when just at the end of his path, which shone more and more unto the perfect day, and waiting to have "an entrance ministered unto him abundantly, unto the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." How happy was Jacob, who died waiting for the salvation of God, and bestow-

ing his blessing upon his children! How happy was Moses, when dying, after having seen God face to face, and viewed, from the top of Pisgah, the good land promised to the people of God? Was not David happy, when speaking on his death-bed of that covenant which was all his salvation, and all his desire? And was not Simeon, who had long waited for the consolation of Israel, very happy when, with Jesus in his arms, and with heaven in his view, he said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." Aged Christians often see, like Stephen, Jesus standing on the right hand of God, ready to receive them into heaven, and to give them the crown of glory, which fadeth not away. They fall asleep in Jesus; and who would not be happy to fall asleep in *his* arms, and to enter into that rest from sin and trouble, which remaineth for the people of God? Halyburton said, a little before his death, "The beginning and end of religion are wonderfully sweet. I long for his salvation. I have found him. I am taken up in blessing him. I am dying rejoicing in the Lord." I seldom read finer words than those spoken by Hugh Mackail, when his enemies were putting him to death in the twenty-sixth year of his age, because he loved Jesus and preached his gospel:—"Farewell, father and mother, friends and relations; farewell the world and all its delights; farewell meat and drink; fare-

well sun, moon, and stars: welcome God and Father; welcome sweet Lord Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant; welcome blessed Spirit of grace, and God of all consolation; welcome glory; welcome eternal life; welcome death; O Lord into thy hands I commit my spirit; for thou hast redeemed my soul, O Lord God of truth."

The sooner you seek, and the more you love Jesus, the greater will be your happiness and glory in Heaven. If you look up when you are going home at night, you will see the heavens adorned with hundreds of sparkling stars. Some of these stars shine so brightly, that you can see them at once; others give a fainter light but are easily seen; whilst others twinkle so feebly, that you must look steadily for a little time before the eye can catch them. There are many thousands of stars, which are so far away, that you can never behold them till you look through a magnifying glass. Now Paul tells us, that as "one star differeth from another star in glory, so will it be at the resurrection of the dead," when those who love Jesus "shall all shine as the stars, for ever and ever." In Heaven Jesus will "make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, from the smallest to the largest:" but the larger these vessels are, the more of those riches of glory can they hold, and the more shall they receive. The servant who gained five pounds was

made ruler over five cities, whilst the servant who gained ten pounds was made ruler over ten cities. Do you not think that those who seek and love Jesus early, and who increase daily in knowledge, and love, and holiness, will have more of the light, and happiness, and glory of Heaven, than those who do not love the Saviour till their days are nearly ended. Do you not think that David and John, who loved Jesus early, and did much good in the world, and gave much glory to God on earth, have now more glory in Heaven than Manasseh and the pardoned thief, who did not seek nor love Jesus till their life was near an end? I dare say you would wish to be eternally wearing a bright, bright crown, and singing a sweet, sweet song. I cannot believe that this is your wish, if you do not begin now to seek and love Jesus. "He that soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully," and enjoy at last an exceeding great and eternal weight of glory. A good woman, who loved Jesus early, said, on her deathbed, "O the glory that remains for the people of God! when I get to that blessed society above, my pleasures will never end. O the glory, O the glory that shall be set on the head of faith and love—I long for this glory." Among the last words of a good man were these: "I shall shine; I shall see him as he is, and all the fair company with him, and shall

have my large share: Glory, glory, dwelleth in Immanuel's land."

"Then let us love and serve the Lord,
With all our youthful pow'rs;
And we shall get this great reward,
This glory shall be ours."

CONCLUSION

I have one thing more to tell you, and much do I wish that all children would believe it. It is this: If you do not seek Christ early, there is a great danger that you will never seek nor find him. You may die very soon, and then you cannot seek Jesus. You do not think, perhaps, that you may die early. Let me ask you a few short questions. Do you not remember what I told you already, about the children of the old world, and of Sodom, and of Bethel, who all perished suddenly? Now, my dear children, may not the next grave that is opened be for one of you; and the next stone that is raised, be placed at the head of the youngest child who hears me? Since this year began, and it is only twenty hours old, above *seventy thousand* persons have passed into the eternal world! Before the end of this first day of the year, above *fourteen thousand* more shall have followed them! Twice as many children as now hear me, shall draw their last breath before that clock strike once more! Who knows, but some of you may be of that number! Who can tell, but the most healthy and the most thoughtless child among you, may in a few minutes hear these words: "This night thy soul shall be required of thee!"

I am almost sure, that the dew-drops of spring will sparkle on the grave of some child who now hears me! that the grass of summer will grow above the head of another, that the leaves of harvest will be scattered on the lonely abode of a third; and that the snow of next winter will cover the cold dwelling of a fourth. "They die in youth, and in a moment go down to the grave." "I have been in the church-yard," said a little Jewish boy, "and I find, by the graves which I have lain down by, that many have died younger than I am; and if I should die before I have learned the law of God, what would become of me?"

Now, if you die before you have sought and found Jesus, you can never hear about him in the grave, nor can you return to this world to seek him. And where shall your souls be, if you die without love to Jesus? They shall be with the soul of the rich man who died, and was buried, and lifted up his eyes in hell; and they can never leave that dreadful place. The great gulf cannot be passed; nor can the prison be broken, nor the fire be quenched through all eternity. "How long, ye children of Bethel, have you been suffering in that place of torment?" "We have been here, suffering the wrath of God, for nearly three thousand years!" "How long must you still endure that wrath?" "We shall be tormented in this flame while eter-

nity shall last; and when as many years shall have passed, as there are drops of water in the ocean; and as many more as there are grains of sand on the sea shore; and as many more as there are leaves and flowers on the earth in summer; and as many more as there are stars in the heavens; and ten thousand times ten thousand as many more as all these together; when all these countless years are gone, still our sufferings shall be only beginning; the wrath of God will be always wrath to come." "Ah! Mr. Hervey," said a dying man, "the day in which I ought to have worked is over, and now I see a horrible night approaching, bringing with it the blackness of darkness for ever. Wo is me; when God called I refused. Now I am in sore anguish, and yet this is but the *beginning* of sorrows. I shall be destroyed with an *everlasting* destruction!"

There is great danger, that if you do not seek Christ early, you will not seek him, though you may be spared for some time. We can scarcely expect, that the tree which produces no fruit when young, shall begin to bear fruit when it is old; and we may say, "Cut it down." Would you not think that man very foolish, who should neglect his work in spring, and think to sow in harvest, when he ought to be cutting down his corn? We read in the Bible of very few who began to seek Jesus in their old age; whilst many

are mentioned, who said, that they intended to seek Jesus at some future time, but who never did as they promised. Did the young man, who said that he would follow Jesus, after he had bidden his friends farewell, ever return to the Saviour? Did Felix ever get the more convenient season of which he spoke, or send for Paul, as he promised to do? If you do not seek Jesus in the days of youth, when your cares and troubles are so few, and your advantages so great and numerous, there is little cause to hope that you will seek him in old age, when "the cares, and riches, and pleasures of this life" fill your mind, and when weakness and pain distress your body. Soon will your heart be so full of other things, that, like the inn at Bethlehem, there will be no room in it for Jesus. The longer you live, the harder does your heart become, and the darker your mind, and the more stubborn your will, and the more do you love and seek the things of this world, and the less do you value and desire the things of another world. "Evil men wax worse and worse," just like Ahaz, king of Judah, who trespassed more and more against the Lord; or like Hazael, king of Syria, who could not believe in his youth, that he would be so very cruel and wicked, as he afterwards showed himself to be. The stone that is rolling down a sloping bank moves slowly at first, and may be easily stopped; but it gathers

force as it proceeds; and who can stop it, till it reach the gulf below. You could easily bend, or pluck up by the roots, the young and tender plant; but who can bend or tear up the large, old, and knotty tree? You could soon alter the course of a river, just after it rises in the hills, and is only a small stream; but when could you change it, after it has received many other streams, and has become a broad and deep river? "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." Most of those who lose the morning of their days, have to say at last, "Wo unto us, for the day goeth away. The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." "The master that people serve in their youth," says Evans, "they generally continue to serve to their dying day, whether it be God or the devil." "His bones are full of the sins of his youth, which lie down with him in the dust."

There is danger, that if you do not seek Christ early, you shall not find him, even though you should seek him when you grow old. If you spend your youth, and health, and strength, in the service of Satan, can you expect that Jesus will receive you into his service, when you become old, and weak, and unfit to serve your old master? God tells you, that he will not receive the blind, and the lame, and the sick for sacrifice; and, that

"cursed is the deceiver, who sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing." You read, that Esau "found no place for repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears; that the foolish virgins cried in vain, "Lord, Lord, open to us;" and that Jesus said to the Jews, "Ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins." Jesus says of those, who do not seek him till age and trouble come, and death and hell appear ready to receive them; "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer: they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me." "I am much afraid," said a young man to me, two days before he was hanged, "that nothing but the fear of death and hell makes me seek the Saviour now, and that I cannot expect to find him: the words, 'seek ye the Lord while he may be found,' trouble my mind very much, as they show me that there is a time when he may *not* be found." Another person said, "I am not penitent; it is the fear of eternal punishment that is awakened in my guilty soul! and this fear is the pledge and foretaste of the torments of the damned." It often happens, that those who spend their youth in folly, and their life in sin, die in terror and despair; just like Judas, who despaired, and went and hanged himself. I once saw a dying man, who, like Pashur, was a terror to himself, and to his friends, and to all who saw him. I hope I shall never see his like again. He

was not thought a wicked man; but he seldom went to church, or read his Bible, and he never prayed, nor thought of death, and what comes after it. But the King of Terrors soon made him not only to think, but also to feel, and to tremble. Behind him he saw nothing but a life spent without love to Christ; and before him, he saw nothing but the wrath of an angry God; in his body he felt nothing but pain and weakness; and in his soul he felt nothing but remorse and despair. He rolled about his wild eyes, and smote his breast, and wrung his hands: he cried for pardon, and spoke some dreadful words about eternal damnation, and then groaned, trembled, and died! I left the house, saying to myself, "How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!" Another man said, when dying, "Pray ye who can; I never prayed. I cannot pray—nor *need* I. I turn and turn, and find no ray. Oh! thou blasphemed, yet most indulgent Lord God! Hell itself is a refuge, if it hide me from thy frown!"

Now, my dear children, seek Jesus early, that you may find him, and escape all the miseries, and get all the blessings which I have mentioned. We must now part, and we shall not all meet again on earth; but we shall all meet when the dead, small and great,

shall stand before Jesus, as their Judge. If you die without love to Christ, the children of Sodom and of Bethel shall be then found less guilty, and less miserable than you, for they never heard the kind words of Jesus—"Those that seek me early shall find me;" and they were never taught, as you are, to seek, and love the Saviour. The devil and his angels may say to you at last, "How are you come into this place, to be our companions in misery? For us no saviour ever suffered and died; to us no offers of salvation were ever made; by us no pardon was ever refused. But for you a Saviour hung in agony, and died on a cross; to you salvation was often offered; by you, pardon was often refused. Oh! how are you fallen and become like us?" Jesus himself will be then your enemy; and how dreadful must your condition be, when the Saviour, instead of saying to you, "Come, ye blessed of my Father," shall say, "Depart from me, ye cursed." You shall then cry for mercy, but no mercy can be granted: you shall then call to the rocks to fall on you, and hide you from the face of the Judge, but you shall call in vain. Tears, and cries, and prayers, shall then be too late. You must depart from the throne, and the presence of Jesus, to be tormented day and night, for ever and ever. Jesus, who will then show no mercy to those who die without love to him, is now more willing than tongue

can tell, or heart conceive, to pardon, and to bless you, if you seek him. His arm is full of power, and that arm is now stretched forth to save you; his heart is full of love; his lips are full of grace; and those lips now invite you to his heart, and his love, and his joy, and will soon welcome you, if you seek him early, to his presence, and his throne, and his glory. And now, may the Lord Jesus bless you, and make you his own children, and receive you at last into his kingdom, to enjoy, through a long and happy eternity, the blessings which God has prepared for all who love and serve him.

Gift of
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